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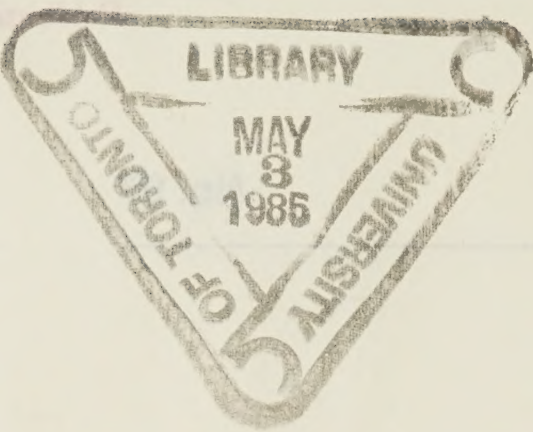
Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, October 22, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, October 22, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

DEATH OF GRANT NOTLEY

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, it is with an enormous sense of sadness that I inform the House of tragic news that I know shocked members of all parties: the death of Grant Notley on Friday evening in an airplane crash.

As members know, Grant Notley was for many years a member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. Most recently he was the leader of the official opposition in that province, and for over 10 years he was the leader of the provincial New Democratic Party in Alberta.

Grant Notley was a friend of mine and a friend of a great many people on this side of the House. He was an extraordinarily dedicated individual. He was a person of enormous talent, of great conviction and of great integrity. He was without question one of the most hardworking and dedicated people I know.

I had occasion to drive around Alberta with him a few years ago. Most recently I had occasion to fly in a small plane for a couple of days with Grant when Arlene and I were doing some political work with him.

It is with an enormous sense of sadness that I pay my respects and my tribute to Grant Notley in this forum. I know that as I fly out tomorrow to the services in Edmonton and in Fairview, all members will want to join with me in expressing their sincere condolences to Sandra and to all the Notley children, as well as to members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, who share with us this great loss of a wonderful person and a very great politician.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government I want to associate the members on this side of the House with the comments made by the leader of the third party.

It was not my privilege to know Mr. Notley personally, but I would certainly want to share with members of the House the experience of most of us as we learned the news of the untimely death of a fellow parliamentarian.

One was taken by the immensity of the shock and, indeed, by the statements of the Premier of Alberta and others with respect to the personal

loss they felt. Notwithstanding the so-called adversarial role in our system of government, this gentleman enjoyed respect on the basis of being a decent human being with a very high degree of civility in his approach.

I am sure all members of the House would want the leader of the third party to take with him the sincere regrets of all members of this House, particularly as they are expressed personally by him to the widow and members of the family.

It helps to illustrate in an all-too-realistic way the risks that are attached to public service, and it seems a very shocking experience indeed that a man who has pioneered with respect to his point of view over the years would be taken from the public scene at such an early age.

I am sure all of us as fellow parliamentarians would want to express our gratitude for this life of public service and to express as well, on behalf of the government and the people of Ontario, the deep sense of loss that this untimely death records.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, we in the Liberal Party would of course want to associate ourselves with the remarks of the leader of the New Democratic Party and with those just offered by the Deputy Premier. Certainly we were all shocked and saddened on Friday night to hear the news of the tragic death of the leader of the Alberta New Democratic Party and the Leader of the Opposition in that province.

The one comment I would like to add, because I think the leader of the New Democratic Party has spoken with great feeling about his personal relationship with the late Mr. Notley—I do not believe I ever met the gentleman; I think I had the opportunity to be in his presence on one occasion when some of us as an Ontario delegation were in Edmonton some years ago—is that when one looks at the career of Grant Notley, one must be impressed by the single-minded dedication he brought to his public and parliamentary responsibilities.

For a long time Grant Notley soldiered on in difficult circumstances in Alberta, facing monolithic opposition from the government. A lesser person, I think, might have given up a long time ago. Mr. Notley, as our friend the leader of the New Democratic Party has indicated, brought a

level of intensity and commitment that sets a very high and good example not only to the rest of us, who must carry on public responsibilities in Alberta and elsewhere, but also to the community at large.

When one looks at the career of Mr. Notley and when one thinks about the adversity he faced, one must be very impressed by the very high standard of public service of which his tragically ended career is such a fine example.

On my behalf and on behalf of my colleagues I want to extend our very deepest sympathy to his wife, to his family and to the people of Alberta, who have truly lost a great soldier in politics and in parliament.

ORAL QUESTIONS

OTTAWA VACANCY RATE

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, my first question will be to the member for Ottawa South, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing, a man whom we in the eastern region hear has a lot on his mind these days.

What plans does the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the member for Ottawa South have to alleviate the critical housing shortage in the national capital region? The minister will know, both as minister and as local member, that the vacancy rate in Ottawa is among the worst in the country and the province. We have hundreds of people who require social housing on a long-term basis and who are standing in line nightly to gain admission to church basements and old police stations.

What does the minister propose to do in the here and now to redress the critical social housing crisis in his home city of Ottawa?

2:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am sure members will recall that during my estimates we went through a complete analysis of what we have provided, through both the provincial and the federal governments, in the way of publicly assisted housing units.

I discussed Ottawa and I indicated very clearly that under the Ottawa-Carleton Regional Housing Authority we have something better than 13,000 units that are now on a rent-geared-to-income basis. In the current year, additional stock will be added. This will come as a result of the allocations through my ministry and the federal government. We indicated that 200 of them would go directly to the private sector and take in units on a rent-geared-to-income basis. The member will recall the arguments I had with the mayor from that community.

Over and above that, there was a further allocation by the federal government directly to the municipality, through City Living in the municipality, of another 80-odd units, plus 25 we had given it as well, which is 105 units. In addition, I reported to this House that the firm by the name of Minto Construction in the city of Ottawa had built some units under the Canada rental supply program.

There was a great argument brewing at the time as to whether that firm was going to allocate any of its units under the Canada rental supply program to rent-geared-to-income. They believed they had made a special deal, and I will not go into all the details here today, but if the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) wishes them, I will be glad to speak to him later about it. In the last few weeks the federal government, Minto Construction and the government of Ontario have been able to resolve the problem.

They will now allocate over the next 12 months something in the range of 300 units from that firm alone to the rent-geared-to-income program. In addition to that, at this time we have units that will come on stream through the private nonprofit corporations and the co-ops which will allocate a percentage of their units to the rent supplement program.

I also call to the member's attention that back in the late part of August the previous federal government made an announcement that this province, in co-operation with the federal government, had brought the Canada-Ontario rental supply program into being. They had allocated 2,800 units for Ontario, for which we as a province will pick up 50 per cent of the cost, or about \$19 million. One third of those units, when completed, will end up in the rental supply program on a rent-geared-to-income basis. That is the direct action we are attempting to take to resolve the problems not only in Ottawa but in other areas of the province.

Mr. Conway: I do not think anyone in Ottawa or in this place will disagree with the minister when he suggests the national and municipal governments have been very active in trying to deal with this critical situation in his home city and elsewhere in the province.

Surely he will agree that the principal difficulty it is our responsibility to meet here is the fact that the provincial government—particularly the principal instrument in these matters for the provincial government, the Ontario Housing Corp—has been virtually inert since the late 1970s. It is not good enough to suggest that some-

how the municipal nonprofits or the national government are going to solve a problem in which the province has a significant role to play.

What does the minister intend to do specifically, as a member of the provincial government, to redress this very serious situation? In Ottawa we heard the other day that the four main hostels have a 90 per cent firm booking for the whole winter, with only 30 or 40 spaces available. That is before the worst of the crunch comes. What specific undertakings is the minister prepared to give, as a member of the provincial government, in this situation in Ottawa, this month and this winter?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: We have accepted the position, in this province and in the other nine provinces, that the supply of housing is a federal-provincial program. In 1978 we entered into an agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. for the provision of housing. Very clearly the statement in this agreement was that we would pay a portion of the costs at a date to be determined. That was very clear. If we had taken the reverse position—because we made a good deal with the federal government of the day and we are now criticized for it—let us just remember the tax dollar we speak of is still coming from the Ontario taxpayer, whether it comes directly from his provincial taxes or through the federal taxes he happens to pay.

We made the agreement with the federal government. The province and the federal government are responsible for the operation of that whole program, not the municipality. There is no financial undertaking by the municipality whatsoever, and 100 per cent is underwritten by either the provincial or federal governments. The municipalities are the operators of the program under the allocation program, but it is underwritten entirely by the provincial and federal governments.

In answer to the question, this government, through the Canada rental supply program, the co-op program, the Ontario community housing assistance program, of which we foot 100 per cent of the cost—that is the one with the co-ops and private nonprofits—and through our participation of \$19 million under the Canada-Ontario rental supply program, is trying to resolve the problem.

We believe at this time and we will continue to believe—and I hope to have a meeting shortly with the new federal minister who reports for housing—that we still have to resolve this problem on a co-operative basis, not singularly by the province itself or the federal government

itself, but by working together to resolve it, and indeed having a third partner, the municipality, not from a financial point of view, but from an advisory point of view.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the minister should know there are people who this winter will again be sleeping in church basements in the shadow of the Parliament Buildings in Ottawa. The minister should know that is a disgrace for us as a province, as it is for us as a nation.

How can the minister justify having a provincial program that spends roughly two cents on the dollar, in terms of the federal-provincial contribution, to provide for municipal nonprofit and co-operative housing? Why does he not go to the national minister for housing, if he wants a national program, and indicate positively how much Ontario is prepared to invest in affordable housing for people in this province that will help to deal with the problem this winter, rather than have another winter when younger and older people are forced to live and sleep in basements instead of having proper roofs over their heads?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member has been in this House on the odd occasion and has perhaps read some of my ministry's estimates debates which clearly indicated our responsibilities in relation to the federal government.

I have listened to this garbled thing about how we spend two cents on the dollar on the nonprofit program, disregarding the more than 100,000 units we happen to own as taxpayers of this province, for which we support 50 per cent of the cost of operation. It is not two cents on the dollar; it is 50 per cent of the cost of operation. Clearly, our responsibilities have been lived up to.

I would like to take the member back to a statement I made in this House some months ago in relation to the agreement we signed with the federal government for the delivery of municipal nonprofit housing. I said I had offered to the former Liberal minister reporting for housing that we were prepared, as a province, to sit down with him and renegotiate the agreement if he so wished. I was waiting for him and his call to do so.

Mr. O'Neil: Why did you not handle it yourself?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Because it was their agreement. We honoured it fully and we said we were prepared as a government to sit down and reassess it with them and take a more active part if they wished. However, we wanted the funding we were going to put in traded off against other extended programs in the provision of housing. It

was not just a matter of absorbing the federal government's loss, but a matter of putting it back into the program to produce, effectively, housing for Ontario.

Mr. Conway: The minister will surely recall his statement during the estimates in June when he indicated that by the fall of this year he expected to be able to report to the House, and to the community beyond, new programs that he would work out with the federal people to deal with this critical situation.

Mindful of that commitment during the estimates debates to which he made earlier reference, that by this fall he expected new initiatives, can the minister now speak about that to me and to the hundreds and thousands of senior-citizen renters and low-income families in the national capital area who say, "What is Claude F. Bennett going to do for us now to make available new units in Ottawa for the winter of 1984-85?"

Hon. Mr. Bennett: I just went through a complete breakdown of some of the housing that will come on stream in the very near future. I went through the whole assessment of what we have in the rent-geared-to-income allocation. We have put 200 of them into the marketplace, renting from the free marketplace from private developers. We did not have to wait for a year or 18 months to get them built. We went directly to the opportunity of renting them from the private sector, which had them under development or construction at that time. That was for 200 units.

Over the ongoing period, there are units coming from the private nonprofits and co-ops, and there are the municipal nonprofits at the same time. It is not a matter of how many we can produce in any given day; it is a matter of programming it and doing it over a period of time.

2:20 p.m.

Let me suggest strongly to this House that this government, and I believe the people of this province, can take a great deal of credit for the programs put in place over the last 20 years. With 115,000 units, one in seven rental units in my city of Ottawa and one in seven units in Metropolitan Toronto is owned, rented or paid for by the provincial or federal taxpayers.

We continue to try to improve upon that program, but let me suggest very strongly we are not going to resolve the problem overnight. We are not.

I am going to suggest again to the member for Renfrew North that he can sit down with Mr.

McKnight and he can talk about the programs he would like to see brought in.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Minister.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: There happens to have been a certain federal election that interfered with that program, but we would like to meet with the federal minister and resolve it with a new scheme.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON THE NORTHERN ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling), my question must be directed to the Deputy Premier. It concerns the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment.

In the seven years and three months since the commission was struck by order in council in the summer of 1977, the people of Ontario have spent in excess of \$10.5 million for it.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Conway: Given that fact, can the Deputy Premier on behalf of the government, which continues to pay the bills for that dubious enterprise, stand in this House today and indicate when, if ever, the Legislature and the province can expect the final report of that \$10.6-million Royal Commission on the Northern Environment?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I cannot provide the honourable member with any specific date. One surely cannot argue the effectiveness of the consultative process and the importance of the work done by the commission. No doubt in the fullness of time we will have the benefit of that very exhaustive study.

I will draw the concern of the member for Renfrew North to the attention of the ministers involved and perhaps we can have a more specific answer with respect to date after I have consulted with them.

Mr. Conway: As the government turns the screws on the hospital workers at Sensenbrenner Hospital, why does it continue to give this boondoggle an apparently endless rope to go around the northern part of the province spending million after million?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Conway: Is it not an admission of the government's absolute incompetence and stupidity that this \$10.6-million enterprise continues, and seven years and three months to the day after its creation it cannot indicate to the province when in hell it is going to report and

give some indication of the kind of value for money we have for the \$10.6-million worth of investment?

Hon. Mr. Welch: The short answer to the specific question I heard would be no.

Second, if we are going to undertake a piece of work, we want to satisfy ourselves it is complete. We have to respect the judgement of the commissioner with respect to the completeness of his work.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, can the Deputy Premier answer two simple supplementary questions?

Mr. Speaker: Just one.

Mr. Foulds: Number one: Can the minister tell us why Commissioner Fahlgren seems to have such great difficulty putting his pen to paper and writing his final report? Can he tell us how much the government could have saved and developed the north by simply investing the \$10.6 million in the north instead of in this fruitless, senseless and useless commission?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the record of this party in government over the years has not been to dismiss lightly the consultative process, but to ensure people have a full opportunity to make their views known. I do not think the honourable member can just arbitrarily dismiss the importance of that by throwing figures around. Surely he must agree we have a dedicated commissioner who takes his responsibility seriously.

Mr. Martel: How can the minister say that with a straight face?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: We will have the commissioner's report when he feels he is able to complete it. With respect to a definite reply, as I have already indicated to my colleague of the official opposition, perhaps I can be a little more specific after I have consulted with the ministers responsible.

Mr. Conway: Is the Deputy Premier aware that if the money now spent on this dubious enterprise had been spent on the people who are being royally inquired into, the government of Ontario would have been able to make a one-time payment of \$350 to each one of those people in northern Ontario?

Will the Deputy Premier, for once in his recent day, exercise a bit of political machismo and undertake to direct that commission to terminate its work and to report to this Legislature at the earliest opportunity?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I hope I have not heard the member suggest that a shortcut to consultation would be to buy people off in this very crass way. With respect to this matter, we are taking some time. We make no apology for the consultative approach. That is why we are here and the member will continue to be over there.

Mr. Foulds: He has stopped consulting. He stopped thinking and he stopped writing.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Labour who is deep in conversation.

Mr. Speaker: Proceed please.

Mr. Rae: My question has to do with the report of Professor Gunderson on equal pay. With respect to the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value, which the minister was asked about over the weekend, his response was, and I hope he is not being quoted unfairly by the Toronto Sun, "...the idea of adding \$3 billion to the total wage bill of Ontario employers at a time when Ontario's economic recovery is 'sputtering' causes him major concerns."

Why would it not have occurred to the minister to say that the fact that the women of Ontario are now underpaid by somewhere between \$1 billion and \$3 billion causes him major concern? Why would the problem of being underpaid and the evidence that there is systematic discrimination in the economy towards women not cause him concern at the present time, whether or not the economy is sputtering, as he so nicely puts it? Why is his focus not on what is happening, which is that women are subsidizing the economy as a result of the way they are being treated in the private and public sectors?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: The member is involved in more press confrontations over the period of a week than I am over the period of a month.

Mr. Breaugh: There is a reason for that.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Certainly, there is a reason for it and I can understand the reason.

Mr. Kerrio: He wants a job in the United Nations.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is that what he is angling for?

Mr. Speaker: Back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am not being critical. There are some people on this side, too, who search out a high profile. I am afraid my

objective is the exact opposite. The member will appreciate that whenever one is confronted by the media, there are a lot of questions asked and a lot of answers given. The particular answer quoted in this article is accurate. However, it is only one of several answers I gave to the reporter.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I do not know whether to ask whether the other answers were better or worse than the one the minister gave. It is difficult to know. The minister did not deny he stated that the recovery is "sputtering," which is nice to hear because it is in direct contradiction to all the bunk we have had from the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) over the last few months and—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: —second, the minister is not denying his focus was not on the question of being underpaid.

The government has trumpeted Bill 141 as being equal pay legislation when we all know it is not. How does he feel about the fact that, in dealing with the legislation and the concepts that have been put forward by the government, Professor Gunderson says, "In fact, it is likely that at most 0.05 to 0.10 of the overall wage gap can be attributed to wage discrimination within narrowly defined occupations within the same establishment, the portion of the gap that conventional equal pay for equal work legislation can deal with"?

How does the minister feel about his government, which comes into this House with legislation that deals with 0.05 to 0.10 of the problem it says it is trying to deal with?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: In response to the first comment the leader of the New Democratic Party made concerning my comments about the sputtering, the recovery and so on, he has to bear in mind that in my ministry I have to deal with matters such as plant closures, extended labour disputes and so on, so I am not confronted day by day with all the positive stories that are happening around this province; I am occupied with the other side of the coin.

But positive things are happening and those things are being brought to the member's attention each day, as well as they should be, by the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and by the Treasurer. My mandate is to look after some of the less encouraging things that are going on in this province.

The member referred to Bill 141. I have no hesitation whatsoever in repeating the phrase he

used as an aside, and that is "staged progress." There is no doubt at all that we are heading in the right direction and that this will serve to provide stronger emphasis on equal pay for similar jobs. That is what we are striving towards. If the third party would permit us to get this through the Legislature, then I am sure it would make a significant impact on the overall problem we are confronted with.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I want to inform the minister that he knows very well that Bill 141 will not bring about equal pay for work of equal value.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Mancini: We went through lengthy committee hearings and never did the minister say he was opposed to equal pay for work of equal value because of the cost to the economy. Never did he say that, and I am surprised he has been quoted as saying that now.

Why will he not encourage his government to take more direct action through legislation instead of continuing with his public relations programs, such as setting up a women's minister and then not doing anything for women? Why does he not take direct action and make amendments to Bill 141 so we can have equal pay for work of equal value here in this province?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I agree and disagree with the honourable member. I agree when he talks about the principle of equal value legislation. I agree totally. I was one of the ones in this House who voted for it on a private member's bill. Certainly, I agree with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

I totally disagree with the member when he starts talking about the lack of progress or the lack of significant effort that has been made by the Ontario Status of Women Council, which is under the leadership of one of the most respected parliamentarians in this country, my colleague the Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch). For the member opposite to suggest there has been no progress and no improvement or anything like that starts to get me rather angry.

Mr. Rae: Before the minister gets too angry in his praise for the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), I would just remind him that we heard today that the Deputy Premier thinks the Fahlgren commission is also making progress. That is staged progress, too, so I think we know where the Deputy Premier is coming from in his definition of "staged progress."

I am surprised at the answers the Minister of Labour has given today and I am surprised that he would not see the clear underlying message of the Gunderson report. Professor Gunderson says two things very clearly. If you want to deal with the problem of the unfairness in the wages that are being paid to women, two steps have to be taken. The first step is to have equal value legislation; and the second step is to deal with the problem of the segregation of women into job ghettos that are underpaid by having affirmative action programs in place.

Why does the minister not accept our amendments to Bill 141, which would do two very direct things: move on equal pay for work of equal value and move on affirmative action? Why not do that, since his own consultant has said those are the two steps that have to be taken if the government is going to tackle this problem of wage discrimination against women?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: With respect, I believe the study makes one important point. It makes several important points, but the one I would like to pass on today is that it points to the need to develop more precise estimates of both the direct and indirect costs of implementing equal value legislation and its associated administrative and regulatory costs.

Mr. Rae: The minister read that very well.

ENERGY CONSERVATION BUDGET

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister of Energy a question.

In 1979 the minister who appears for some reason to be such a centre of controversy today, the Deputy Premier, announced a dramatic new policy for the province called Energy Security for the Eighties: A Policy for Ontario.

This document set out many specific targets for increasing energy self-sufficiency. It talked about the two elements of conservation and development of indigenous energy resources. It said that renewable and recoverable energy was going to play a much greater role in the life of the province and that the government estimated with its efforts "by 1995 at least 15 per cent of Ontario's energy will be from renewable and recoverable resources." Those were among the things that were laid out in this document.

With the estimates that the minister is going to be tabling later this week and with a document he has put before his ministry that calls for a complete devastation of the budgets of his ministry devoted to energy conservation and to alternative and renewable energy, we can see that this policy, which was set out a short five years

ago, is a complete and utter shambles; it has been totally destroyed.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: How does the minister explain this savage attack on renewable energy and on conservation, and how does he justify this kind of slashing in his budget at a time when these things need additional investment?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to respond to those comments, particularly since the honourable member opposite unfortunately did not see fit to ask my predecessor this question. I think he would be very interested in participating in this discussion as well.

I expect that as a result of Mr. Howard's comments in the Globe and Mail the leader of the third party would no doubt have some interest in the whole concept of what the ministry is doing and how it is refocusing its efforts in the areas of conservation and renewable energy.

At a time when energy prices have been reasonably stable for some two years and when it is important for governments to exercise proper stewardship of the taxpayers' resources, I think the member would have to agree that it is the role of people like me, of the Deputy Minister of Energy and of those involved in that stewardship of the government's resources to make sure the money is spent properly and that it is focused in a direction in which we can get the greatest value.

2:40 p.m.

We are therefore reassessing all the programs within the ministry. We are looking at the direction in which the ministry is going in the light of a more stable energy environment, and we are trying to attach greater commercial value to the programs we have embarked on and the studies that have been done over the years.

Mr. Rae: The minister talks about a new focus for conservation of renewable energy. Is he denying there has been a cut of more than \$3.5 million in the alternative and renewable energy budget for 1984-85? Is he denying there is a drop of \$4.4 million in the energy conservation budget? What kind of new focus is the minister talking about? He is not talking about a focus. He is talking about a slash. He is talking about a cut.

Is the minister still committed to the figure of 15 per cent by 1995? If so, can he tell us how in the name of goodness we are going to get there when he is cutting off every chance we have of reaching that goal in terms of renewable energy?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: The member asked me about the 15 per cent figure. I have to tell him

quite frankly that within the structure of the ministry and within the work we have been doing in the renewable energy field, given the scenario of today's energy prices, we probably cannot achieve that 15 per cent figure.

The member has to realize that in 1979, when the document was tabled, we were looking at projected world oil prices in excess of \$55 a barrel. Those prices now are at about US\$28 and falling. Given that scenario, we have to appreciate and recognize the realities of today's situation. We are doing that. We are making those adjustments. We know that will make us a more effective and credible organization in the eyes of the public.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, would the minister give his assessment to the House as to what role his new deputy minister played in this rather far-reaching turnaround in the policy of the ministry, which was established by the Deputy Premier as well as by the minister himself? Is this just an effort by Duncan Allan to do for his present minister what he did for the member for Lambton (Mr. Henderson) when he was Minister of Agriculture and Food?

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: Mr. Speaker, I have to tell the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk, who knows very well the competence, the creativity and the effectiveness of Mr. Allan as a deputy minister in the government of Ontario, that indeed he will be following the mandate we have constructed and developed within the ministry.

Mr. Rae: Ontario Hydro is spending \$3.5 million on the "talking" furnace alone. The minister knows perfectly well that is roughly the same amount of money that has been cut out of the alternative and renewable energy budget.

How can we draw any other conclusion from the news today in terms of the slashes and the cuts in the Ministry of Energy than that the government has recognized that what the Deputy Premier was doing in 1979-80 was a public relations exercise, described in the ministry's own document of 1984 as "overbilling"? That is a euphemism for a public relations exercise of the first order. How can we come to any other conclusion?

The ministry has basically decided to get out of solar energy and all the other alternatives and to simply leave the field to the big oil companies, the big gas companies and Ontario Hydro. That is what the Ontario Tory party has done. It has abandoned all sense of regulation and of providing alternative and other sources of renewable energy for smaller businesses in Ontario. It is simply leaving the field wide open to big oil, big

gas and big Hydro. That is the Ontario Tory party in a nutshell.

Hon. Mr. Andrewes: I hate to disillusion the leader of the third party, soon perhaps to be the Leader of the Opposition, but I have to tell him that the private sector has worked very diligently, and we have worked very diligently with it, to develop these alternatives. We have made more progress in Ontario in the area of solar technology than has any other province in Canada. Through Ontario Hydro, we have developed policies of cogeneration and wheeling power that are exemplary when compared to the record of any other utility in Canada.

I have to take exception when the member talks about us getting out of these areas of renewable energy. We are simply attaching to those technologies a commercial value that needs to be attached to them. If we do not attach that commercial value, those technologies will be living from government grants and government programs for ever.

ORGANIZED CRIME

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations having to do with organized crime.

I wonder whether the minister has read the copyright articles in the Windsor Star, beginning Friday, October 19, by Jim Phillips and Alan Abrams, that bring very serious charges to bear against decisions made by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario. They indicate that licences were granted to criminals or people with criminal records who have come into this province and applied for licence transfers, which should not have been permitted under the regulation that states licences are not to be granted in circumstances where "the past conduct of the applicant affords reasonable grounds for belief that he will not carry on business in accordance with law and with integrity and honesty."

Is the minister aware of those charges? If so, will he give us an explanation, which he may have received by now from the chairman of the LLBO? If not, what undertaking will he make to inform himself of these important matters?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware of those allegations, and I am not certain whether what the honourable member read to me were charges. The ordinary process that is carried out in the transfer of licences is an extensive one, which would cover many of the matters the member has outlined. Therefore, at this point I can only take the question as notice and say that I will report back.

Mr. Nixon: To assist the minister in his review, I bring to his attention that a licence was granted to a company in which one of the principal shareholders was a Peter Barth, described by the Windsor Star as kingpin of the \$1-million nude French table-top dance industry in Quebec and Ontario and an associate of figures in organized crime, which is branching out into Windsor.

In this instance, one of Barth's colleagues and business partners is a Nick Vasilaros, who has the same sort of background. The LLBO recommended revoking his licence for a Peterborough nude dance club, but the request was overruled by the LLBO chairman.

These are matters that concern us, and when the minister sees the amount of material that the Windsor Star has collected as far as this allegation is concerned, I am sure he will agree that it requires a thorough investigation.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Again, all I can say is that I have no personal information about any of the matters referred to. If the member will be good enough to give me the material, I will have it photocopied and return it to him.

EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. I wonder whether the minister is aware of a statement made by his colleague the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) in a letter addressed to me; I believe the minister received a copy of it.

The Solicitor General says, "It is not thought that mandatory inquests into every work-place-related death will have the effect of reducing the number of these unfortunate cases, nor will it provide greater information for the workmen, or industry, in adopting procedures which could prevent such regrettable deaths in the future."

If the minister is aware of that statement, what is his position on it, considering he has stated in the past that he is in favour of mandatory inquests?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am not going to waffle. I made the statement earlier that I recommend mandatory inquests. I have made a commitment in this House in that respect. I have made a commitment to the media in that respect. Why keep bringing it up with me? Why does the honourable member not take it up with the Solicitor General and ask him what his opinion is?

I support the position taken by the member, and I have supported it with the Solicitor General, but I also respect the Solicitor General's

right to have an opinion of his own. I will continue to press him from my point of view, and I trust the member will continue to press him from his point of view. That is the way the system works.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: If the minister responsible for the occupational health and safety of workers in this province is taking the position, as he has again today, that he is in favour of mandatory inquests and he wants to press the Solicitor General on this matter, can he tell us when he anticipates that he, as a minister of the crown, will be able to persuade his colleague of the rightness of his position and the error in the Solicitor General's position? When can we expect a change in government policy rather than individual ministers' policies?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Again, I think the answer to that is to ask that question of the Solicitor General. He is an extremely competent minister of this crown. He has his right to have an opinion, just as I have my right and the member has his right. We happen to be two to one in this case; nevertheless, he is the one who has the final say. I will continue to press him from my end. I make that commitment.

HEARING FOR LIQUOR LICENCE

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding a recent hearing conducted by the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario with respect to a licence for the Breslau Hotel. The minister may know, and I will remind him, there have been various acts of violence and assault, one resulting in death, at the hotel within the past few years. The problem is that at the licence hearing, counsel for the LLBO neglected to bring any of this evidence to the tribunal's attention, with the result that the licence was again renewed.

Must I remind the minister that there is a clear duty on the part of the agent of the crown to present all the evidence that bears on a matter? Surely he remembers the case not very long ago when the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) had a new hearing because a part-time crown attorney neglected to present the full case. Does the minister not share the concern when such a failure of duty occurs within his own ministry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I do not have the slightest reason to doubt that the material the honourable member has read to me is accurate, but out of old-fashioned habits I have developed, I would like to take the opportunity to review the

facts and the allegations he has made before commenting on the question he has asked.

Mr. Epp: I remind the minister that he has had a considerable number of letters on this matter. If he checks with his ministry staff, he will find they have a lot of information already on record.

I am sorry, Mr. Speaker, I cannot bring Peterborough into this particular matter, but in view of all the circumstances, is the minister prepared to look sympathetically at the evidence in the case, since a number of people have indicated that all the evidence did not come forth? Will he look at it sympathetically from the standpoint of having a new hearing and permitting a third party to participate so that all the evidence can come forth rather than have the kind of hearing that occurred only a few months ago at which it is quite obvious all the evidence was not brought forth?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Again without doubting the accuracy of what the member has reported, I would like to take the liberty, out of old-fashioned habits, of reviewing the accuracy and completeness of the allegations that have been made against many parties. Second—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: What is that again? The member was there last week at that place and he did what?

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: What did the member do there last week? I could not hear—

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question.

Mr. Samis: You wiped him out. Well done, Mr. Speaker.

ASSOCIATION LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, this is another question for the Minister of Labour. In view of the fact that the strike by the employees of the Cornwall District Association for Mentally Retarded now has gone into its fifth week, can the minister inform the House what his ministry is doing to help resolve that dispute?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the work stoppage, the labour dispute, there. I am also aware—

Mr. Martel: It is a management dispute.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Labour-management dispute or management-labour dispute, whichever way the honourable member prefers it.

Mr. Martel: I prefer it that way.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: All right. The management-labour dispute is in its fifth week. I am not

right up to date as of today—I was last week—with the mediation efforts. I will make a point of checking that out and will respond personally to the member.

I do know that there have been mediation efforts made by our ministry and that our mediators continue to be available to the parties concerned. I appreciate the question from the member. Because it is a serious situation and it creates the loss of a valuable service to the community of Cornwall, it is imperative that this matter be brought to a successful resolution just as soon as possible.

Mr. Samis: In view of the fact that this strike is rather different from the normal industrial or private sector strike—in fact, it is rather different from the normal dispute in the educational institutions—and in view of the fact that apparently only \$6,600 seems to divide the two sides from an actual settlement, and recognizing the mediation that his ministry is engaged in, will the minister undertake personally to use the full force of his office to try to get the two sides back to the bargaining table and to try to find a settlement of this dispute, because of the particular nature of the strike?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I think I have always responded positively any time a similar type of question has been asked of me, with one reservation. The member touched on that in his question when he said each dispute is somewhat unique in itself. There are times when one can get involved and there are other times when it would be counterproductive to do so. But I do commit myself to sitting down with my senior officials, such as the assistant deputy minister for industrial relations and the director of our mediation and conciliation branch, reviewing all the circumstances and deciding whether it would be appropriate to intervene personally. I will get back to the member with that information as soon as I can.

WINE INDUSTRY

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations. As the minister is aware, the wine industry in Ontario is in considerable trouble and probably requires immediate action on the part of the Ontario government to rectify its situation.

Will the minister indicate whether he is prepared to implement the recommendations included in what was referred to in a headline in the St. Catharines Standard as a secret proposal to the Ontario government, which would reduce the Liquor Control Board of Ontario markup on

the price of local wines to one per cent from 58 per cent and reduce the imported wine markup to 66 per cent from 123 per cent, while allowing a flat-rate distribution fee of \$12 a case to cover LCBO costs and profits?

The minister will understand that it is necessary to move both because of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. That is why this recommendation is made. Is he prepared to act immediately upon that proposal so he can assist the wine industry, which is in considerable trouble?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, it is of interest that the honourable member is aware of only one of a variety of proposals that have taken place and are under way with respect to Ontario's wine industry, which is part of our food land policy for the great Niagara Peninsula.

I believe the member comes from that very area and, therefore, he would have a particular interest in it. The Liquor Control Board of Ontario, as he knows, has sponsored in this year of our bicentennial a special bicentennial series of displays of Ontario wines to bring those wines to the attention of Ontarians.

Mr. Sweeney: What has that got to do with production costs?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The member is talking about efforts to assist the industry. If he does not think a 200 per cent increase in the sale of Ontario wines from Niagara is important, let him stand up and say so and tell us to stop selling it.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: We think it is important to do those things.

Mr. Bradley: I will withhold my excitement over the bicentennial wines.

Mr. O'Neil: I am sure we will have another one next year.

Mr. Bradley: We will save it for the real bicentennial in 1991.

Mr. Speaker: Now for the question.

Mr. Conway: The inventory must be down after the Queen's dinner.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

3 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: In view of the fact that Mr. Donald Ziraldo, who is president of Inniskillin Wines, was quoted as saying, "We are getting to the point where we are very pessimistic and frustrated," and in view of the difficulty experienced by the wine industry in terms of layoffs and that the markets for the grape growers is a

very significant problem, would the minister not agree with me that it is important to act immediately instead of waiting for yet another of the task force reports his government seems to have going at all times?

Does he not agree that their frustration is justified and that his immediate action is necessary to help not only those in the Niagara Peninsula but also those across Ontario who are interested in a healthy wine industry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think this is one of those issues that I sense is not being looked upon in a political way by the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley). I sense he shared the same goals this government shared in 1981 when it introduced the 65 cents handling charge on wine.

Although I did not hear his sounds of regret when circumstances came about that required the withdrawal of that 65-cent handling charge because of threats of retaliation from the Americans to the south, I know that had he known about it he would have spoken up about it and let his constituents in the Niagara Peninsula know that he wanted anything done that could be done to preserve the interest of that food land dedicated area.

We continue to explore options that are feasible within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and other arrangements that are in place. We are unrelenting in those and will continue to pursue avenues that will help the wine industry of that part of the province to which the honourable member is so dedicated, but to which he seems to give so little praise for the efforts we have made to date. With or without his assistance—and I suspect with it—we will carry on our endeavours to preserve Niagara food land and its great wine growing industry.

ARBITRATION AWARD

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Chairman of Management Board of Cabinet. My question arises out of the arbitration award in the recent decision of the board of arbitration under the chairmanship of David H. Kates. What exactly is the minister's position on the question of the comparability of pay scales for corrections officers and Ontario Provincial Police constables?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, a report that was done some years ago, I believe for the government, said we should move towards comparability between correctional officers and the OPP. There has been some gradual movement in that

direction in awards that were agreed to by the government in years past.

I do not have any particular position on the issue and it is not an issue which I personally am involved with at arbitration. However, I think there has been a gradual movement towards parity.

Mr. Renwick: The minister is no doubt referring to the Shapiro report and to the Kruger award which was made a couple of years ago. In the Kruger award it was stated, "We note that responsible officials of the Ontario government, including the current Minister of Correctional Services and his predecessor have accepted the legitimacy of such a link and have indicated support for narrowing the wage gap between the two groups."

Yet in the arbitration award to which I refer, the following statement appears: "Notwithstanding the absence of any disavowal since the Kruger award of the past statements made in support of the comparability position by responsible officials of the Ontario government, the employer before this board has contested the validity of any such wage link. Indeed, the employer's representatives appeared to be highly critical of the pronounced legitimacy of the wage link between the two groups as expressed in the Kruger award and the antecedent studies, particularly the Shapiro report."

Is the minister going to pay attention to what the chairman of the arbitration board said when he urged the parties to resolve this pressing issue of comparability on their own, during the course of their next negotiations?

Hon. Mr. McCague: It will certainly be one of the many things taken into account when negotiations resume next year.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, surely we can expect an opinion from the Chairman of Management Board; he is part of the government.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Mancini: Is the minister in favour of, or against, having the wages of the corrections officers become comparable to the wages of the provincial police; yes or no?

Hon. Mr. McCague: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member heard what I said initially. Yes, I am a member of the government. I am also a member of the cabinet. He asked for my personal opinion. I will give him the opinion of cabinet, which he has heard.

STAFFING OF REST HOMES

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour regarding the reporting of

Workers' Compensation Board claims. It will require a little bit of background and I would appreciate if you would let me give that background.

Two weeks ago yesterday, a Vietnamese woman employed at the University Rest Home in Windsor was savagely beaten by a young patient in the home. She sustained numerous bruises to many parts of her body, a broken right cheekbone and some possible ligament damage to her left wrist. The incident occurred at 6:30 in the evening with two staff on duty in a home with more than 100 patients.

The beating, on the fourth floor of the building, continued for a time until the woman escaped and managed to reach the ground floor, where she was taken by ambulance to hospital. I am going to send the minister a complete summary of this matter so that he may be aware of it.

Eight days later we called the owner, George Leferman, and inquired why no report of the incident had been filed with the Workers' Compensation Board. We were told he had not sent anything to the board because he was "waiting to see what she is going to do before we do anything." He noted this woman had been discharged from hospital but had not returned to work, intimating that she was malingering.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: Will the minister ascertain whether full and proper reporting of this claim has now been made? Will he report what action the board is prepared to take to ensure that this employer is charged under the act? Finally, how much of this kind of attitude is he prepared to accept before he gets tough with employers who flagrantly violate the Workers' Compensation Act of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I will be happy to look into the matter. I will report back personally to the honourable member and respond directly to each of the three questions he has raised.

Mr. Wrye: I am sure the minister knows he is empowered under section 101 of the act to enter this rest home to ascertain, quoting from the section, "whether all proper precautions are taken for the prevention of accidents to the employees employed in or about the establishment or premises."

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Wrye: Given this, I have three questions for the minister. Will he undertake such an investigation to find out whether the lack of staff

in this facility placed the staff at risk and precipitated this incident? Can he inform the House whether it is the policy of the board to investigate whether other incidents in facilities such as these have gone unreported? Will he investigate whether this rest home has been properly reporting such incidents over time?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I do not say this in any flippant manner whatever, because I respect the member and the seriousness of the questions he has asked. I will add those questions to the three he asked previously and will respond to him in all cases.

PETITIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from 154 students in the colleges.

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"Having paid for a quality education through many personal sacrifices, we demand your attention so that our studies will not be interrupted. We are unable to function on our own in much of the learning situations for specific courses without the help of a teacher or an instructor.

"This loss of classroom hours is grossly unfair. Many of us have given up full-time jobs, taken out loans to cover costs and in general have disrupted our family lives to attain a better education.

"To extend our classroom hours into holiday time or summer would mean additional strain in regards to care and costs for our children in day school at present. In addition, there would be a lot of upheaval for students since their summer plans include jobs that will pay for next year's fees and expenses."

3:10 p.m.

Mr. G. I. Miller: I have a petition addressed to the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

"We, the undersigned, strongly protest your decision to allow the teachers and instructors associated with this and similar colleges across Ontario to go out on strike as of October 17, 1984.

"We are enrolled in these colleges to gain valuable knowledge to aid us in our search for employment. To disrupt our studies at this time would adversely effect our ability to finish and graduate from these courses. We feel that any delay in our graduation would mean looking for a job at a very inopportune time and greatly reduce

our chances of finding any employment in our chosen field."

It is signed by 62 students from Fanshawe College.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I would be remiss if I were not to thank the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) for allocating \$250,000 for a health study in the Niagara Peninsula after the report from the federal government.

I hope it is at the insistence of the member for—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is hardly a point of privilege. You may send the minister a letter and express your thanks in that manner.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition from the students at the Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology. It states:

"All our futures depend on the preservation of Ontario's education system. We, the students of Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology, feel strongly that both parties return to the bargaining table and reach an equitable solution."

It is signed by 881 students at Niagara College of Applied Arts and Technology.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS (concluded)

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, when we finished on Friday I had put a few questions to the minister, questions that had been on the Orders and Notices, and he indicated he would provide answers today. I wonder if I might impose on him for a moment or two to allow my colleague the member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) to pose a few questions on the agricultural theme. My colleague has another commitment, and certainly I do not mind stepping aside to give him the opportunity to present his case if we could come back to my questions later.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Certainly.

Mr. Chairman: Go ahead.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Chairman, I have not had as much of an opportunity as I would have liked to sit in on the meetings considering the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, but I do not believe there has been a great deal of discussion about the state of the agricultural industry in northern Ontario and the lack of government support towards that most important industry in northern Ontario and its potential.

The points I want to raise this afternoon have to do with the markets for the products that are grown in northern Ontario. I also want to mention the concerns the farmers have with respect to the crop insurance program as it applies to them in northern Ontario.

Mr. Stokes: Can we get a little order over there, Mr. Chairman?

Mr. Chairman: I wonder if those members leaving the chamber could do so quietly so the debate could continue uninterrupted.

Mr. Riddell: Last, I want to mention a little bit about the agricultural and rural development agreement program and the concerns that the farmers have about the intention of the government towards the continuation of the ARDA program in northern Ontario.

I have been doing a bit of travelling in northern Ontario and talking to the farmers at their request. I have also been travelling with the task force that was set up by my leader to look into the concerns of rural municipalities throughout Ontario. We have spent quite a bit of time in northern Ontario with that task force listening to many presentations from people from all walks of life.

Inevitably we will always get some kind of presentation from the farm communities throughout northern Ontario, and that is why I want to spend a little time this afternoon talking about their concerns.

The Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) will no doubt recall a private member's bill that was introduced by one of his colleagues and one of the possible candidates in the upcoming leadership race. I am referring to the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope), who back in 1977 introduced a bill to amend the Ontario Food Terminal Act.

The purpose of that bill was, first, to expand the objects of the Ontario Food Terminal Board to include the establishment of a branch food terminal in the district of Cochrane and, second, to forbid new or expanded wholesale fresh produce operations in the district of Cochrane. Without these two substantive amendments to the Ontario Food Terminal Act it would be impossible for the food terminal to expand to northern Ontario.

The bill arose from concerns expressed by the producers, wholesalers and consumers of Cochrane South and, indeed, of all northern Ontario about the state of the agriculture industry generally and of the fresh produce sector of it, specifically throughout northern Ontario.

Those concerns remain with the farmers. I have in my hand a brief that was presented to our task force from the East Nipissing and Parry Sound Federation of Agriculture, and I will quote a few sentences as they appear in this brief: "A provincial program to establish local markets and abattoirs to supply urban areas would have merit in the north, where transportation costs are becoming a serious burden. The whole question of marketing our product is one we have sadly neglected."

Members can see that the same situation occurs in northern Ontario now as it did at the time the member for Cochrane South introduced his bill.

The Minister of Northern Affairs knows full well that the vast majority of the arable land in northeastern Ontario is located in the great Cochrane clay belt and in the vicinity of Timmins to the extent of 2.2 million acres and in the little clay belt in the northern end of the district of Timiskaming to the extent of 391,000 acres.

3:20 p.m.

By arable land I mean class 2 and class 3 soils as defined by the federal Department of Agriculture or high soil capability as defined by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Of the total of 2.7 million acres of high quality arable land in northeastern Ontario as a whole, a mere 918,000 acres, or one third, is included in census farms. Further, only 382,575 of those acres comprise improved farm land. Of that improved farm land, only on 252,500 acres were crops of some kind being grown. That was done on 2,840 census farms through which 13,347 people derive direct income.

That base must serve and be compared with approximately 559,850 people in the northeastern Ontario market area at present. That population is projected at 779,000 by the year 2001. Note that I have not included the population of northwestern Quebec, which is almost totally served through Ontario with respect to food products.

Clearly, northeastern Ontario's vast agricultural potential is far from being fully utilized. Despite the high-capability land and the large size of farms in northern Ontario, economic output is low. Fifty-two per cent of all census farms have gross annual proceeds of less than \$2,500 and in some districts, including the district of Cochrane, the average farm income for tax purposes is negative.

It is also clear that farm incomes in northeastern Ontario are declining along with farm population, the number of farms and the amount

of improved agricultural land. Quite simply, agricultural land in northeastern Ontario is going out of production.

For example, farm acreage in the district of Cochrane declined by 46 per cent from 1961 to 1971—and is still declining—and by 25 per cent for the whole of northeastern Ontario. In the district of Cochrane, the number of farms declined from 900 in 1961 to 340 in 1971—and it is still declining—and from 5,000 in 1958 to 2,489 for the same time frame in all northeastern Ontario, and the number of farms is still declining.

A number of reasons have been given for the decline. The consensus appears to be a combination of more remunerative employment opportunities outside agriculture, high transportation costs to market, fluctuating market demands, competing land uses, lack of storage and marketing facilities, and climate.

A farmer in northeastern Ontario generally lacks access to local markets because of the bulk-buying practices of chain stores. He must ship his produce south to markets, including the Ontario Food Terminal in Toronto, or sell it at discount to a wholesaler to encourage pickup in the north. It is thus the producer who must bear the transportation cost in order to be competitive with established bulk wholesale prices. That same product shipped south may be marketed here in Toronto and shipped right back up north to wholesalers and retailers there.

There is no question that there is a vast transportation system handling fresh produce and potatoes as well as dry groceries throughout northern Ontario, but as the minister well knows, the transportation costs are extremely high. One of the reasons they are high is the distances. The other is that the transport carriers have a payload only one way, taking the food produce from southern Ontario up to the north.

I could talk extensively about the transportation system, but suffice it to say that it is a very costly system in northern Ontario, which expresses the real need for better markets so farmers can grow the produce in northern Ontario, which they certainly have the potential to do, and find markets right there in the north.

It is rather ridiculous that the hogs produced in northern Ontario are transported down to the south, killed and slaughtered here, and then the carcasses are sent back up to northern Ontario to feed consumers there. The same thing can be said for beef cattle. They lack slaughtering facilities in northern Ontario.

Farmers have been telling me that they badly need abattoirs in northern Ontario so they can have their own cattle killed in the north and then move the carcasses to the various retail outlets to meet the consumption in northern Ontario. It seems ridiculous that cattle and hogs are shipped to the south and slaughtered here and that the carcasses are then sent back to northern Ontario. This is a real concern the farmers have.

Northern Ontario, in spite of its vast agricultural potential, is not meeting its own market needs even in those agricultural products in which it excels; so there is a tremendous potential in northern Ontario if only it had the outlets.

Wholesalers in northeastern Ontario purchase fresh produce from southern Ontario, but because many are not licensed public commercial carriers, they do not have full or even partial truckloads heading south. In other words, their transportation systems are inefficient.

For many grocery products, the consumers of northeastern Ontario pay prices comparable to those in southern Ontario, with five to eight per cent of the purchase price built in for transportation costs. However, on many other items northeastern Ontario consumers pay far more.

The construction of a food terminal by the government with space leased to the wholesalers would provide accessible market facilities for producers. It would reduce transportation costs to producers in obtaining access to markets. Products could be transferred between terminals by the Ontario Food Terminal Board according to its present mandate.

With a steady supply at competitive prices because of the open market system, local producers could begin to supply the local market. Wholesalers and retailers could still order in bulk and split the source of their orders. In other words, an order could be placed in Toronto for both the southern Ontario market and the northeastern Ontario market and shipments could be made to the northeastern Ontario market through the northern food terminal.

Storage facilities could be constructed by the food terminal board or by co-operatives of producers or wholesalers. This would help to revitalize the agriculture industry in northern Ontario. It would reduce costly inefficiencies in the transportation practices of wholesalers and retailers in northeastern Ontario. This should have the effect, it is hoped, of decreasing some food prices to the consumers of northeastern Ontario.

In addition, northern Ontario farmers could market a larger variety of crops such as potatoes,

cabbages, beets, onions, turnips and carrots. I would even include tomatoes, since I did talk to a farmer in northern Ontario who indicated he could grow tomatoes just as well as they can grow them in southern Ontario.

As a matter of fact, if my memory serves me correctly, he was producing tomatoes in the vicinity of one of the large retail outlets in northern Ontario; yet that retail outlet refused to accept his tomatoes. I think the reason was that he could not produce a sufficient quantity of tomatoes to meet the demand, so it preferred to deal with somebody from southern Ontario who could produce sufficient quantities. The argument did not seem to hold much water as far as I was concerned, but here was a chap in northern Ontario who could produce tomatoes and who wanted to produce them, but who did not have the markets.

This is the reason I am standing here today. I am trying to encourage the Minister of Northern Affairs to work with those farmers to see if there could not be some public funding of possible markets so the farming industry could take off in northern Ontario and produce the crops it certainly has the capability of producing.

Mr. Stokes: Satisfying the local market.

Mr. Riddell: Satisfying the local market, as one of our good northern members has just indicated.

Mushrooms could also be grown in northern Ontario without any problem. This type of agricultural development could create jobs in northern Ontario—jobs in agriculture, in processing plants, in freezing plants and in agricultural service industries.

3:30 p.m.

Granted, the establishment of a food terminal, or a better kind of marketing system in northern Ontario, would not solve all the problems of the agriculture industry in the north, but it would certainly go a long way to helping out.

Mr. Stokes: Cutting down on transportation costs.

Mr. Riddell: Cutting down on transportation costs, as the member for Lake Nipigon says. I appreciate that help because he knows the situation in northern Ontario well, probably better than I do.

We have to consider changing policies on disposition or use of arable land by the crown. I am going to get into the agricultural and rural development agreement program in a few minutes. We need agricultural research and moneys for the purchase of modern machinery.

We need to examine the economies of farm size. We need storage facilities, but we also need, first and foremost, a marketing structure and strategy for agricultural food products in northern Ontario, thereby creating the necessary incentive to revitalize the agricultural industry.

I give the member for Cochrane South a lot of credit for introducing his bill. I believe it received unanimous support on all sides of the House, but for some reason the bill went on the back burner and nothing has been done.

Mr. Stokes: He became a cabinet minister and did not want to rock the boat.

Mr. Riddell: Nothing has been done about improving the markets in northern Ontario since he left his position in the House as a backbencher and became a cabinet minister and is now the Minister of Natural Resources.

I hope the Minister of Northern Affairs will take my comments into consideration. I am looking forward to his response about the possible development of markets in the north. Let us get the agricultural industry booming in the north again. As the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) has said, the potential for agriculture is in the east and the north.

It seems to me the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program was going to devote several million dollars towards the development of agricultural land in eastern and northern Ontario. I have not seen a great deal of that money spent. How much was it?

Mr. Stokes: Ten million dollars.

Mr. Riddell: My friend tells me the BILD fund was supposed to provide \$10 million for the development of agriculture in northern and eastern Ontario. I think it has fallen short of even paying out one tenth of that amount of money. It will be interesting to get the correct figures from the Minister of Northern Affairs, if he has a chance to talk to the Minister of Agriculture and Food some time. So much for markets in the north.

One of the real concerns of the farmers in northern Ontario is the crop insurance program. Everywhere we go throughout the north, the farmers say the crop insurance program, as it applies to them, is practically useless. Many of them do not even enter the program or, if they were members of the program at one time, they have certainly withdrawn from any involvement they have had.

I find it somewhat ironic that there is no northern representative on the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario. Does that not speak about the commitment of this government

towards the agricultural industry in the north? The farmers in northern Ontario feel this is an important requirement in view of the fact that the problems there are different.

Those farmers feel that having a northern representative on the crop insurance commission is an important requirement in view of the fact that the problems in the north are different from the problems in the rest of the province. They would like to have someone on this commission who understands their problems.

The major problem they are having concerns the hay and pasture insurance program. The government uses a simulated yield based on a computer program, and it is my understanding that this computer program has been programmed for southern Ontario conditions. It is based on 30 inches of soil and it is also based on land that is tile-drained.

These are conditions that do not readily apply to northern Ontario. In many cases in the north, one will be lucky to have six or 12 inches over bedrock. The computer module is based on 30 inches of soil, which we have in southern Ontario. Not much of the land in northern Ontario is tiled at this time.

I know many of our contractors from southern Ontario are in the north tiling more of that land recognizing the potential that tiled land has to produce. The program is based on well-drained land and, as I indicated before, not much of the land in the north is well drained.

Last year the theoretical yield on the computer program was forecast to be cut on June 30. In actual fact, it was cut on June 15 in the majority of the cases in the north and the farmers had a bad crop year. It was down by one third of their average crop. However, there was no payout.

In 1982 there was a payout, but there was none in 1983 even though the farmers had a worse harvest in that year. The computer module does not take into consideration variable climatic conditions. It does not examine individual farms, which may have different growing conditions from farms some 30 miles away. Some form of individual adjustment is required as far as the farmers in the north are concerned.

The farmers in the north would also like to have more emphasis put on the second cut versus the first cut of hay. Currently, 75 per cent of the harvest is attributed to the first cut and 25 per cent to the second cut. They would like to have that 25 per cent figure raised.

The insurance program for small grains, barley and oats is also of some concern to beginning farmers. In the first year a beginning

farmer's coverage is limited to 67 per cent of the average yield. This yield is about 1,200 to 1,300 pounds per acre. The farmers feel this figure is much too low in view of the fact that a beginning farmer is most vulnerable in that first year or two. Much more flexibility is needed in the crop insurance programs as far as those farmers are concerned.

While input costs for the farmers have increased dramatically, the payouts under crop insurance have remained the same as they were a few years ago. It does not seem to me that the crop insurance program is keeping in step with what is happening in the agricultural industry and the prices that are being paid for the commodities grown and, also, the high input cost, the ever-increasing input costs that farmers are facing.

I would hope the Minister of Northern Affairs would take into consideration the very real concerns that farmers in northern Ontario have with the crop insurance program because they honestly feel, the way the program is at the present time, it is of very little use to them. Many farmers in the north will not have anything to do with the crop insurance program, but if it was ever revised and brought up to date to meet the conditions in the north, then one would see many of the farmers jump into the program.

Lastly, I want to talk about the agricultural and rural development agreement in the north. I firmly believe that it is the Minister of Agriculture and Food's intention to do away with the ARDA program; yet the farmers in the north tell me they consider it to be a most worthwhile program and they would like to see it continue.

3:40 p.m.

Farmers in northern Ontario are not making all that much money farming. They cannot afford to go out and buy land, but to become more efficient they have to expand. That was one of the reasons the ARDA program was established in the first place: to give farmers a chance to expand their farming operations. The land was leased to farmers for a period of years, and they were given the option of buying that land for the price the government originally paid for it.

It has been a good program; it was a program that was actually province-wide at one time. I know that many farmers in southern Ontario made use of it. Much of the land the government bought was turned into community pastures and certainly helped many of the farmers in what I consider to be the more northerly parts of southern Ontario, in the Huron, Bruce and Grey county areas. A lot of farmers in the more

northerly part of southern Ontario would say it was unfortunate the government saw fit to curtail that program for those farmers.

While the program is ongoing in northern Ontario, the farmers understand the minister's intention is to curtail the program and they do not know where they stand. They do not know whether they are going to be able to continue to lease that land next year. The minister has not indicated his intentions with respect to this ARDA land and so the farmers cannot make any long-range plans. They do not know whether they are going to have the use of that land in the future.

When I posed the question to the minister in April 1984, I mentioned that some 400 farmers in the province are leasing land from the government under the ARDA program, which was originally developed to help farmers in areas of low productivity, predominantly in northern and eastern Ontario.

I stated that these farmers had not yet been notified by the minister of the lease rate for this year or even whether the government planned to continue this program, even though these farmers had to make decisions with respect to planting and fertilizer application. I urged the minister to tell these farmers that the ARDA program would be continued, and in view of the critical situation facing them, that the leases would be renewed at their original rates in the hope that it would give those farmers a small break.

As a supplementary, I said to the minister: "What are we to tell the farmers? I just spent a lot of last week in northern Ontario. The farmers do not know what to do." I asked him his intentions and whether these farmers could rely on having that land for the next five or even 10 years.

I made reference to one farmer, Don Stymiest, a beef farmer in Powassan, who applied to the ministry for the extension of his ARDA lease last October and had absolutely no reply up to that time. I was talking to the farmer in April and he still had no reply from the minister, even though he had to be making decisions for this crop year.

The value of his 100 workable acres of ARDA land was doubled by the ministry five years ago from \$11,000 to \$22,000 and he has now heard that the rate of lease will be increased to one percentage point below the Farm Credit Corp. rate. I believe at that time the Farm Credit Corp. rate was 14 5/8 per cent; so he was looking at an increase in the rate of interest on the market value of that land to 13 5/8 per cent. That meant he would be paying some \$3,000 plus taxes and

insurance, which would be unaffordable for him and, as far as I am concerned, an exorbitant price to be paying for marginal land in the north.

I asked the minister what help he would be providing to this farmer and hundreds like him, who are facing a financial crisis in their industry.

The minister responded that he was well aware of the factors I mentioned. He had been up north several times recently. He did not notice anybody up there planting yet, nor were they likely to be planting for a while.

Because of his lack of agricultural experience, the minister fails to understand that a farmer does not jump on his tractor, pull the seed drill out and put in the seed. He has to plan. The chances are he starts his planning the fall before. He has to plan to buy his fertilizer, his seed and the chemicals to put on that crop. He gets all his planning done. Then, when the planting season comes, he is prepared to go out in the field to plant the crop.

However, the minister said he was up north and he did not see any planting being done at the time. That is the kind of answer to our questions that somewhat annoys us. Again, as I say, it is simply due to a lack of agricultural knowledge and experience on the part of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

I could make a speech on this business of a government appointing someone as Minister of Agriculture and Food who has no actual experience and who has very little knowledge of the business of farming. That type of an answer certainly showed his inexperience and lack of knowledge.

The minister said: "I can assure the member we are well aware of the pressures of time. We will make a decision in a timely fashion and convey the decision to the farmers involved." Here is the farmer to whom I was referring, and hundreds like him, wanting to know whether they are going to have this land from ARDA for another year because they have to order seed, fertilizer and chemicals. The minister says, "We will make the decision in the fullness of time."

The minister went on to say: "I remind the member there are and have been various points where the farmers could have exercised the option to buy the property. I hope the member was not trying to imply in his question that they have been denied the right to buy the property, because that is not the case."

I never indicated they did not have the right to buy the property. We all know the ARDA program was set up on the basis that a farmer could buy that land at the price the government

paid for it any time the farmer felt he was able to afford it. I think he was given up to 10 years to purchase the land.

Checking further into this ARDA program as it applies to northern Ontario, I understand the government has decided to continue the program at the same rate of interest as applied last year, but for another year only. I have no idea when it made this decision.

Does this tell the farmers in northern Ontario that the minister definitely intends to curtail the ARDA program next year? Or does it mean they have the good fortune of being able to get that land again this year for the same rate of interest, but maybe next year the land will be available or it may not be? Maybe the interest rate will go up or maybe the land values are going to go up, which means they are going to be paying far more for the use of that land.

3:50 p.m.

Why does the minister feel he has to keep those farmers in northern Ontario guessing? Why can he not tell them, "We are going to definitely continue the program," or "We are going to definitely curtail the program"? I do not know why he cannot make a decision. Why do the farmers always have to be wondering: "What feed do I buy for next year? What fertilizer? What chemicals? What is my next year's program? The minister will not tell me whether I am going to have the use of this land."

The Minister of Northern Affairs should give us a definite answer so the farmers in northern Ontario can start to plan now for their production next year. It is imperative that the minister tell the farmers whether they can expect to have that land next year so they can go ahead and plan on that basis.

Those are the points I wanted to make. I believe there is tremendous potential for the agricultural industry in northern Ontario, certainly when I see what is happening in southern Ontario and especially if Brampton is able to annex the 7,000 acres it wants to take out of agricultural production and zone for development purposes. I am going to be making a presentation before the Ontario Municipal Board about that. I spent considerable time last year touring the land in the Brampton area. It is a real crime that this government would allow 7,000 acres of that high-quality land to be taken out of production.

If it is the government's intention to allow southern Ontario to be taken out of agriculture and put into urban or industrial development; if that is this government's philosophy on the

preservation of agricultural land, it may well be that we are going to have to look to eastern and northern Ontario for the production of the food goods we consume in Ontario.

These are concerns that I think the Minister of Northern Affairs should be addressing right away. He should not keep the farmers guessing whether they can continue in business, whether they are going to have markets for the products they are quite capable of growing in the north, whether they are going to have suitable crop insurance to protect them in cases of adverse weather conditions and other freaks of nature and whether they are going to have the use of crown land to farm next year, the year after or 10 years down the road.

In his response, I sincerely hope the Minister of Northern Affairs will tell us what he sees for the agricultural industry in northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can indicate my pleasure in having the member for Huron-Middlesex make a contribution to the examination of my ministry's estimates, particularly in relation to farming, because my ministry has identified farming as an area we can and should expand in northern Ontario. Not only have we identified the need and the potential, but we have also reacted accordingly.

Perhaps I can read into the record the overview we have in our ministry with respect to agriculture in northern Ontario and the strategic direction we are moving in.

The overview is as follows:

"There are currently in excess of 3,500 farms in northern Ontario on 1.3 million acres of cultivated farm land. The gross value of agricultural production sold exceeds about \$8.6 million, representing close to two per cent of the province's total.

"In the document entitled *Building Ontario* in the 1980s, the government of Ontario stated its views on agricultural development in the north as follows: 'In the more distant future, the province will be looking to northern Ontario, particularly the Cochrane clay belt, to expand its food production.'

"Northern Ontario has many agricultural strengths. Conditions in the north for growing canola, oats, barley and forage are felt to be at least equal to the prairie provinces in western Canada. Agricultural development in northern Ontario is expected to be guided by local market forces and the production advantages it enjoys.

"Because of the quality forage and cereals the north can grow, the development would likely be livestock-oriented. The traditional impediments

to northern agriculture of short seasons, high precipitation rates and heavy soils are being overcome."

Our strategic direction is as follows:

"The Ministry of Northern Affairs' objective in agriculture is to encourage the growth and development of the agrifood sector by assisting in overcoming production and marketing constraints and by creating an environment which will allow the private sector to take advantage of the agricultural potential in northern Ontario."

That lays out exactly where we fit into this picture of agriculture in northern Ontario. As the honourable member has correctly pointed out, there are problems with respect to transportation and small markets; there is no question about it.

As I am sure the member for Lake Nipigon is aware, some time ago we did a very intensive study which had input from the private sector and from government, of import substitution all across northern Ontario, and then we zeroed in on the Sudbury area. It helped to pinpoint areas to which the local community and the local farmers could supply products. It is working.

The member's question about the food terminal has been around for some considerable time. We looked at it very carefully. I am sure the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has done so as well, and I am sure it will answer the same way as we will: private sector investment and private sector initiative and involvement just were not there because the markets were so small.

Mr. Wildman: Why are you sandbagging the member for Cochrane South?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am not sandbagging him at all.

Those of us in northern Ontario know full well that the efficiency of the transportation system today is such that a lot of those commodities can be moved back and forth and up to northern Ontario at a very economical rate, and that is what has happened. The local producers just cannot compete; we have to face that fact. In western Ontario, all our food products come from Manitoba and from western Canada. That competition is hard to overcome; there is no question about it.

I certainly appreciate the member's input, and I will make sure the Minister of Agriculture and Food is made aware of his concerns.

I want to recognize the member's discussion with regard to the agricultural and rural development agreement and point out to him that ARDA has been dead for some four or five years. My ministry has been in existence for only seven

years; so ARDA was being wound down as we came into existence.

ARDA did perform a function in northern Ontario. In my area alone a lot of the land that was bought up by the farmers proved to be uneconomical for farming and has now reverted to the crown for forest production; so in some areas it did not really work. The community pastures are still in place in many parts of northern Ontario; they are functioning. But for all intents and purposes there is no more ARDA program.

There are deals with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food with respect to land. Since I am not involved directly with them, that decision will rest with the Minister of Agriculture and Food, as would the crop insurance plan; we have no involvement in that.

Quite frankly, if we hear of something going awry in northern Ontario, then obviously as a co-ordinating ministry we bring it to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

I can say in all sincerity that the question of ARDA land has not come to our attention. I had my assistant deputy minister from the northwest here and another from the northeast. They live up there; one lives in Kenora and one lives in Sault Ste. Marie. I asked them if they had heard about problems relating to ARDA lands, and nothing has come to their attention. If it had not come to their attention, it certainly would not have come to mine.

It may be a matter in which the member has specific problems or specific people in mind. If it is, I will be glad to funnel them through to the Minister of Agriculture and Food.

4 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I wonder if the member for Huron-Middlesex is confusing ARDA with the northern Ontario rural development agreement, which has an agricultural component in it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am going to get to that in a minute and explain what NORDA is all about.

When ARDA was winding down, we entered into a very extensive \$18.5-million agreement with the federal government that had an agricultural component. It dealt with the areas we had identified in our studies in northern Ontario with regard to import substitution. NORDA responded to land drainage, land clearing, market development, storage and grain-handling equipment, to name just a few. I have a copy of the brochure I will send to the member. This is the program that followed ARDA.

NORDA was in place for three years and wound down as of March 31 this year. It was well accepted across northern Ontario, I might say. In that three-year period members will be pleased to know we funded 164 projects at a total cost of \$5 million. In that total package were two slaughterhouses and we also have one slaughterhouse coming under support from our own northern development program. All the areas I have mentioned, even demonstration projects and technology transfers, were included in NORDA.

We tried to renegotiate NORDA because it was very beneficial. It had a tourism component to it, an agricultural, industry or community infrastructure component and a native component. It was a fairly good program and it was funded 50-50 by the federal government. When the program was winding down, I was receiving regular phone calls and I was in constant contact with the federal government to renegotiate for another three to five years.

That was our hope and our goal, but we were told they were interested in going for only three months at first. I do not know how one could keep a program of that size and broad application going for three months. After I made some noise, Mr. Lumley phoned back one day and said, "We are prepared to go for six months," which is absolutely ridiculous. We said, "In view of your reluctance to go forward with what we think is a good program, we will go it alone." Northern Affairs came up with its own program, with the support of Agriculture and Food. We took the best components of NORDA and put them in the AgriNorth program, a \$10-million program shared equally by the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food.

We are not experts in any of these fields. Our role is to top up funding, to push and encourage. We try to move other ministries in a direction we think the unique northern Ontario needs require that ministry to go. In many instances, they say to us, "It is a great program, a great idea, but we do not have sufficient money." In our ministry we do have the flexibility to put in funds where we think they should be applied to top up. We topped up this particular program and it is working exceptionally well. It is in place now and the brochures are available. I will send one across to the member.

I might mention also in the field of agriculture, our staff identified a serious weakness in northern Ontario, indeed in the province, related to seed potatoes. Up to a few years ago, we were importing 100 per cent of certified seed potatoes.

We went to Agriculture and Food and shared the cost of a massive seed potato production experiment that will eventually make Ontario self-sufficient in seed potatoes.

We put up \$200,000 and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food put up the other \$200,000. That is going through the agricultural college at New Liskeard and is something we identified and brought to the attention of Agriculture and Food. There is no question they were aware of it, but with our extra infusion of dollars it was possible to make it fly and make it work.

We also identified heat waste in northern Ontario, particularly at Raymore. The pipelines were spewing off many BTUs of heat every day from their piping system. With the co-operation of the college at Kirkland Lake, we were able to talk the pipeline owners into providing the excess heat for an experiment at Raymore Lake that grew beautiful tomatoes. In fact, two years ago I brought a case down and delivered them to my critics—

Mr. Wildman: You sent some to me. We enjoyed them very much.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is right. They were good. They were grown on this experimental farm at Raymore using excess heat from the gas company. Those are the things we are involved in, trying to do the things to which the member refers. Maybe we are not moving as fast as some people would like; nevertheless, we are there and we are working very closely with those small operations. It is obvious they have to be small when one thinks that we have only 10 per cent of the population up there and 90 per cent of the population down here. The member's idea of farming, as it relates to northern Ontario, is much larger than what we need and have up in northern Ontario.

Another area we are working very closely with is the mushroom growers in the Sudbury area and the Sault Ste. Marie area. Believe it or not, there are two operations up there that are producing sufficient fresh mushrooms for both of those areas. Also, we are working very closely with the Gibson reserve in the Parry Sound area, providing lettuce for that area.

The member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves) is aware of what is going on. He is a very strong supporter of that program. We are certainly moving along with our efforts in canola. The experiments at the New Liskeard College of Agricultural Technology are very encouraging.

We are moving ahead in a number of different areas, but I say to the honourable member, as it relates to the slaughterhouses and abattoirs in

northern Ontario, I have been most fortunate in being able to get three established. One has been there for several years. We assisted a veterinarian who moved from Dryden to Thunder Bay. I think it is going exceptionally well now. It had a few rough years. We have a small entrepreneur operating in the Dryden area, an abattoir that is serving the entire area. There is also a very efficient one in the Rainy River area.

One of our problems is in getting federal inspection. It is very difficult to get federal inspectors up there, and they are complaining constantly. I think if we had more federal inspectors or the ability to have more federal inspection, then we could ship that meat outside of that area. Now they just sell within their own respective jurisdictions.

Mr. Riddell: Now the minister can speak to his kissing cousins.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is right. Now that we have a new, enlightened administration in Ottawa, I would hope the Minister of Agriculture and Food will take that approach and see if we can break that logjam.

I would encourage the honourable members to go into the Dryden area to see the sheep operation that is going on there at present. It is one of the largest in northern Ontario, and it supplies that whole area with lamb, sheep and mutton. It is a fantastic operation. They will have anywhere from 1,000 and sometimes 2,000 sheep in that one area just outside of Dryden.

Bob Eglie has not only gone into the meat processing operation, he has also set up a very successful wool and sheep products retail sales branch where they actually—what do they do with wool?

Mr. Stokes: They card it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They card the wool, and they have people onsite actually carding the wool, and knitters working and knitting various sweaters, toques, and socks, and they are on sale right there. It is a local product employing local people, and it is going over exceptionally well.

I make that suggestion to the member. If he is up around that area, if he is up at the Bernier picnic, because our picnic is just about two miles away from that great sheep farm, he might want to take in both events next August. He can have an experience with a sheep farm and then a very enjoyable afternoon at the Bernier picnic.

4:10 p.m.

Mr. Chairman, I do not know if I can add much more. I have already said about crop insurance, as I pointed out, along with the possible

agricultural and rural development agreement programs, we will certainly bring these to the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, but we do not have any direct involvement in those.

I share the concern of the member's party and his hope that agriculture can be expanded in northern Ontario, because we are all on the same track in that field. How fast and how far we go is something we will have to wait and see the direction each party takes.

Our government has recognized the need. I know the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has. We have come forward with suggestions that have been fully supported by that ministry. Supported by our enthusiasm and our dollars, they seem to be moving ahead. If the member has some other suggestions as to how we can improve or better the interests of the farmers in northern Ontario, I would like to hear from him.

Mr. Stokes: I am the last one in the world to claim that I know anything about agriculture. I know about as much as the minister does. However, in dealing with the new AgriNorth initiatives by this ministry to the tune of \$10 million, I read in the papers that the people in the Dryden area are somewhat concerned about the emphasis of the specific programs, where the government will give a certain subsidy for land clearing and another kind of subsidy for tile drainage.

With one of those two programs, if they do the work themselves rather than hiring a contractor to come in and do it, the subsidy is lowered accordingly. Their legitimate question is, why does the government not treat both the same? In terms of tile drainage, I guess they are not in a position to do it themselves. In terms of clearing, they are able to, but they do not get the same subsidy if they do the work themselves. Is it a job creation program or what is it? I know it is of concern to the farmers in the area. Is the minister addressing it? Does he think they have a legitimate beef?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In answer to the member's question, that was a continuation of the NORDA approach. When we announced the AgriNorth program in Dryden, the farmers were quick to point out that much of the work can be done by their own equipment. Under the rules of NORDA, they had to contract with the farmer across the street to do their clearing, which they could do themselves.

I gather that in setting the criteria with the feds and ourselves under the NORDA program, there was a policing situation. They wanted to make

sure they were not hiring all their own relatives and that there were those kinds of problems.

I have assured the farmers in our area that we will have a close look at that because I think there are some economies that can be appreciated. There is no question that an individual working for himself can do it a lot cheaper than by hiring. I think that was one of the concerns NORDA had. We are taking a serious look at that because it merits further consideration.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I have a number of concerns I would like to raise with the minister on his ministry's role as a ministry co-ordinating the work of the line ministries in northern Ontario.

Mr. Laughren: This is going to be mean.

Mr. Wildman: I am not sure whether it is going to be mean.

Mr. Laughren: It could be.

Mr. Van Horne: It will not be nice, let us put it that way.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will decide that.

Mr. Wildman: I would like the minister to explain the position of his ministry with regard to water and sewer projects for small communities or municipalities in northern Ontario, and the relationship between the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of the Environment.

As the minister mentioned a few moments ago, the Ministry of Northern Affairs does top up—I think that was the term he used—some programs of other ministries where they are considered to be required and useful, but where the local community would have difficulty, I suppose in some cases with the Ontario Municipal Board, in proceeding under the normal grant structure of the line ministry.

The improvement district of Dubreuilville in my riding recently received substantial funding from the Ministry of Northern Affairs to top up the grant the Ministry of the Environment was prepared to give to enable it to proceed with a water and sewer project.

Perhaps I am not being fair, but it appears the Ministry of the Environment may be taking advantage of this. In some cases, the top grant the Ministry of the Environment can give is about 75 per cent. Initially it appeared Dubreuilville was going to get 75 per cent from that ministry, but after the Ministry of Northern Affairs indicated it was prepared to become involved, the Ministry of the Environment's share actually came through at 62 per cent, I believe.

What has happened is that the Ministry of the Environment is saving money by saying, "If the

Ministry of Northern Affairs is going to get involved here, we might as well not give the total highest amount we could give and in this way save money in our budget."

It does not save the taxpayers any money. It still comes through at the total dollar amount. I suppose it will cost the taxpayers the same. If there is a topping-up by the Ministry of Northern Affairs, I would like to know whether it is a real topping-up or a bottoming-out by the Ministry of the Environment.

I know the minister is aware of other municipalities where the Ministry of Northern Affairs has been involved. For instance, it has been involved in White River and has been of good assistance there. I know the township of Johnson in my riding has also recently written to the minister indicating it would like to get some assistance so that it could participate with the Ministry of the Environment in a services project for the community for Desbarats in the township.

In the context of the Ministry of the Environment, I would like to find out how this topping-up process works and who really benefits other than perhaps the Ministry of the Environment.

I would also like to know about the relationship of the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. When the Ministry of Northern Affairs was established and the responsibility for the Ministry of Transportation and Communications capital construction program for northern Ontario was transferred to the Ministry of Northern Affairs, I know there were some—not many—within the Ministry of Transportation and Communications who did not feel this was really necessary. There may even still be a vestige of that feeling in that ministry. Perhaps even some of the staff has moved.

I would like to know whether the Ministry of Northern Affairs in its co-ordinating role and overall setting of priorities can indicate to the Ministry of Transportation and Communications that a project should be speeded up, even if the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, which has its normal five-year capital construction program, has not included that project within its five-year capital construction program.

In other words, perhaps the MTC officials come to the Ministry of Northern Affairs and say: "This is what we think is necessary for construction over the next five years. There could be adjustments within that five-year period, but

these are the highways we think need to be constructed."

4:20 p.m.

I would ask whether the Ministry of Northern Affairs could say, "We do not necessarily disagree with that but there is another capital construction program that the community has not included in the next five years which we believe," for economic reasons or whatever, "should be included."

Having asked that question, I would like to know what involvement this ministry has had with Highway 548. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications is going on what it calls a day labour program and doing so much a year, but it is not including it in its five-year capital construction program. Another example is Highway 638, where there is a 13-kilometre stretch the MTC has not included in its five-year construction program; yet we have had voluminous petitions to this House asking for its support.

The question of roads is an interesting one because it does not just relate to the MTC. In the unorganized areas the Ministry of Natural Resources sometimes becomes involved. The minister will know that the community of Oba at the junction of the Canadian National and Algoma Central Railway lines in northern Algoma, south of Hearst, has been put in a very vulnerable position since Newaygo has been sold by Consolidated Papers Inc. The road the people have used for access to their community from Hearst apparently will not be maintained this year.

I understand from the assistant deputy minister, Mr. Aiken, who is sitting in front of the minister, that the ministry is monitoring the situation and is prepared to ensure that the residents of Oba will have access. What is the role of the Ministry of Northern Affairs in a situation such as this? It is not an MTC road; in fact, it has been a private or industrial road, but it is used for public access.

Can the ministry become involved when the lifeline of a community is threatened, especially now that we have had the federal government cut the number of passenger trains on the CN? I would like to hear the minister's response, and then I have some questions with regard to his co-ordinating role in health services in northern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I certainly want to thank the member for Algoma for becoming involved in these estimates. It would not have been the same without his input over all

these years. I appreciate his contribution and his concern. As a devout northerner, I am sure he is aware of all the very specific problems those of us who live up there share.

Mr. Laughren: He is waiting for the other shoe to drop.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: His question with respect to sewer and water is very timely. I do not know if he is aware that there are discussions going on at present between my ministry and the Ministry of the Environment with respect to the grant formula and the percentage. We were led to believe the Dubreuilville grant from the Ministry of Energy would be 75 per cent and we were prepared to contribute accordingly. That is the figure we have been working with for some considerable time and we are just a little disappointed to find it is going down to 62 per cent. I will be writing to my colleague formally to express our point of view because we do not think that level should be reduced.

In calculating what our involvement should be, we look at a number of things. What is the basic tax load of that small community? Does it have the wherewithal to carry the financial responsibility not only for the capital construction cost, but also for the ongoing costs? We have to look at that very carefully and also to compare what that community pays in its overall tax load with what another community pays. I do not think one community that might be a better manager of its affairs or not as good as somebody else should lean on the government for that kind of assistance.

Those are the types of things we look at very carefully with the Ministry of Energy in setting up our financial assistance. Ours goes up to about 12.5 per cent. If a community is getting 75 per cent from the Ministry of Energy, it can look to us, if it qualifies for the various points, for up to 12.5 per cent, which makes the load reasonably light if it does not bite off too much.

I expressed the same point of view as the member did with respect to the Ministry of Energy pulling back and the Ministry of Northern Affairs taking over. I recall vividly meeting with the former Minister of the Environment, the Honourable Harry Parrott. At that point, I asked the question, "What was the Ministry of the Environment's expenditure in capital construction for sewers and water in northern Ontario for the last two or three years?" It came out that it was between 16 and 18 per cent.

I made it very clear before we moved into this particular support program that it was our hope—in fact, I think we would demand—that this

percentage not diminish over a period of two or three years. I think it would be destroying our efforts to do what we should be doing in northern Ontario. Its grant structure should remain the same; its total capital dollars should remain fairly constant in northern Ontario. Then we can work from there to answer all the needs of northern Ontario.

We are very aware of this and we share the member's concerns. Certainly, we are discussing this particular area of concern with the Ministry of the Environment on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Wildman: Can you be sure the same thing will not happen to the township of Johnson?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I cannot assure it, but I can assure the member we will watch it very carefully because we are the ones who have to carry the can. If we press the right people and bring it to their attention, we can keep our visibility and keep the share spread between the two ministries, as we have done for the past six or seven years. That is our hope and our goal.

With respect to highways, we have a very close relationship with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, as he obviously understands. I think he touched on a few points that have some sensitivity, and this is what I call tiptoeing through the tulips, believe me. Many of our own staff come from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. In fact, I am pleased to say that my deputy minister is formerly of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and my assistant deputy minister here in front of me is formerly of that ministry.

Mr. Wildman: That is why I mentioned it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The assistant deputy minister from northwestern Ontario, Bill Lees, is from that ministry. We have inherited some excellent people from that ministry who know their operations exceptionally well and are able to co-ordinate very well because they know how the Ministry of Transportation and Communications operates, how it plans and how it co-ordinates.

Mr. Wildman: Do they feel comfortable telling Harold Gilbert what to do?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Oh, I think they do. They do it very diplomatically.

Living in northern Ontario as they do, travelling the highways as they do on an ongoing basis and with 70 per cent of their staff located in northern Ontario, they have a first-hand feel. They know what the pressure points are; they know what the needs are. The demand made by

northerners several years ago that priorities be established in northern Ontario by northerners was a very real one, and we hope we can maintain it.

We have some difficulties, but our success to date is something we are proud of. We have answered and continue to answer the needs with respect to new highway construction. I am not exactly certain but I think Highways 548 and 638 are minor capital programs; they are repairs. They would come under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, not our jurisdiction. Ours has to do with major capital construction programs. It may well be that this falls under their jurisdiction. There is no five-year planning for that, I might say.

Regarding the question of Oba, Biscotasing is another area in which we have established an interministerial committee chaired by the Ministry of Northern Affairs because we have seen this as a real problem in northern Ontario. There is a small pocket of population; there is no municipal government. There are 25 or 30 families, maybe 50 people. There could be a long stretch of road that was opened up maybe by a pulp and paper company. Maybe some entrepreneur went in and extracted all the valuable merchantable timber and then walked away from it, of course, and left it with an access that deteriorates very quickly.

4:30 p.m.

We have been able to respond to the Biscotasing situation through our northern Ontario resources transportation committee. The member will note during the estimates that the funding for NORT has increased by half a million dollars this year. We are using this committee in answer to the needs of the two regions, the Kenora region and the Sault Ste. Marie region, to respond to the needs of those small communities.

We sometimes have to lean on the Ministry of Natural Resources to do the maintenance and sometimes we lean on the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. They do not particularly like going up there.

Mr. Stokes: Like the Northern Light Lake road.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is in good condition.

Sometimes we even have to look to the private sector to do the work for us and we contract it out. We do it in a number of different ways. We hope we can continue to answer the needs of those small communities. It is sometimes difficult to compare the cost benefits we obtain from it, but nevertheless we are dealing with people who require access. I think it is incumbent on us to

find a way to provide decent access for those small pockets of population.

Mr. Wildman: I should point out in response to the minister that with the examples I used of highways, that is the problem I was alluding to. The fact is that MTC views those two jobs as ongoing maintenance repair-type jobs and, therefore, includes them in what it calls its day labour program. In fact, they should be major construction programs.

I was asking, if the MTC decides not to include them in its five-year construction program, or even for that matter in its so-called projected 10-year program, can the Ministry of Northern Affairs go in and look at the situation and say, "We do not agree and we think this should be handled as capital construction rather than a day labour program"? I used those particular examples because they are ones MTC has decided not to include as part of its capital construction program.

I appreciate the response of the minister with regard to communities such as Oba which are vulnerable, and I hope NORT(C)—that word sounds odd to me—will look after the interests of the people of Oba and ensure that they are not isolated this winter and that the road will be kept open even if the pulp and paper companies in the area are not operating.

I want to raise some concerns with regard to health care in northern Ontario. My colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) has probably raised a number of concerns. There are two issues I will not belabour, but I do want to mention them in the context of Algoma.

The first is the question of medically necessary travel authorized by a physician. A resolution was introduced by my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) in this House and won the support of the minister as well as of other ministers from northern Ontario and of the majority of members on both sides of the House. It was voted against by only 17 know-nothing southern Ontario members from the back benches on that side.

Mr. Rotenberg: That is unparliamentary and you should withdraw it.

Mr. Wildman: "Know-nothing" is a parliamentary term long used in the United States, if the member knows history.

Mr. Rotenberg: This is not the United States. We have different rules here.

Mr. Laughren: Do not be a nerd.

Mr. Rotenberg: It takes one to know one.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, they are trying to lower the level of debate.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Algoma will raise it to new levels.

Mr. Wildman: The minister responsible for northern Ontario and for services in the north, the one who has the greatest responsibility for developing government policy in relation to northern Ontario and its residents, has stated, and I admit it was in a private member's vote, that he personally supports the concept of the Ontario health insurance plan covering medically necessary travel between centres of great distance in northern Ontario, and for that matter between northern and southern Ontario centres where necessary.

It is a position I share with the minister. I think all northerners who understand the distances we have understand the importance of this since we, as northerners, pay through our taxes, along with the residents of southern Ontario, for the specialized facilities that we admit will probably for the foreseeable future be located in larger centres in southern Ontario where they are of a particularly specialized nature and where there is the largest concentration of population. We do not argue that they should be located in little communities in northern Ontario. That would not be practical. Since we do help to pay for them, we believe, as northerners, we should have the same access, at approximately the same cost, that southerners have to those facilities.

I know that is hard for the people on the back bench over there to understand because they do not know anything about the north. They do not know the distances that are involved. The member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) would have some understanding of this, and he voted in favour of the resolution.

Very few of those other members over there really understand that if one took the riding of Algoma or Lake Nipigon or Cochrane North or Kenora and superimposed them on southern Ontario, they would cover most of southern Ontario. The distances are not the kind of distances those members are used to.

I can understand why they would have no concept of the difficulties that northerners have when they have to travel great distances for medical treatment that is not of an emergency nature. I understand also that we are covering, through the air ambulance system, the needs of most people who need emergency travel for medical care, but those people then have to follow up.

I will not go on at great length, but I do want to know, since the minister personally favours this and signified that by his vote, what he is doing to change government policy and to persuade the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton), who has not even done a calculation of cost but stood up in this House and said it would cost too much, to change his position. What is this minister doing to ensure that the member for Kingston and the Islands comes to understand the difficulties that are experienced by northerners and understands that this is a policy that must be implemented soon?

The other major issue my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon has alluded to in these estimates has been the long-awaited EldCap program. Early in October the minister announced that Sioux Lookout would be getting 20 extended care beds, and I know he has committed to five communities that this would come about.

The minister knows my concern about the community of Wawa, which is a long, ongoing one. It is one of the first issues I raised when I was first elected to this assembly. It is something the community of Wawa has worked very hard for. It is not something they have just been asking for and saying, "The government has got to do this for us." The minister should understand it is something the community itself has made a financial commitment to.

The township of Michipicoten has set aside funds, which are allocated in a reserve fund for the municipal share of the cost of an extended care facility, probably attached to the Lady Dunn General Hospital. I want the minister to understand, because I do not think he knows this, that that municipality and the ratepayers in that municipality are being penalized by the provincial government because they have put those funds aside.

When the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing or the Ministry of Transportation and Communications calculates the subsidies that this municipality is to get, whether they are the general unconditional grants or grants to assist with road construction and maintenance, it looks at the total financial picture of the municipality.

4:40 p.m.

What do they see? They see this reserve fund and say: "Well, wait a minute. What is this municipality asking for a greater subsidy for? They have all this money." They do not understand that the money has been allocated specifically by the council of the township of Michipicoten, at the wish of the ratepayers, to help pay for an extended care facility, so that the

elderly and disabled in that community will not have to continue travelling or moving a distance of some 140 miles to the nearest facility.

This has been an ongoing problem especially in dealing with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications. The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), in his wisdom, when he is looking at construction programs for municipal roads, always says: "The township of Michipicoten is well off. Look at all the extra money they have." We run into this problem on and on.

This municipality does not know whether it should forget about this reserve fund and spend it—then perhaps in the years to come it will be able to get the money it thinks it needs and is required for it to be able to carry out a decent municipal services program without having to raise local taxes—or whether it should keep it. If it does spend it and at some future date the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of Health finally get around to saying, "Okay, we are ready to give them an extended care facility," the municipality will not have the money that has been set aside.

It is a conundrum. The Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing will not accept the fact that this community has been responsible and has set aside the funds for a specific purpose desired by the ratepayers. It is a service the minister himself advocates as a legitimate concern for the people of northern Ontario.

I just want to add a couple of other issues of major concern with regard to health care in northern Ontario.

I recognize the lack of professionals has been an ongoing problem, and I know the minister recognizes it as well. I admit it is not an easy problem to solve; we cannot solve it by throwing money at it. We do have the underserved areas program.

I think most of us would agree that if a health care professional goes to a community in northern Ontario, he or she is probably guaranteed a very good income because there is a need for those services; so we do not really need to subsidize it. We are not going to attract people to the community on an ongoing basis by giving them money. We might be able to attract newly graduated young professionals into an area for a few years, but the problem we have is that once they gain some experience, they often move on.

Mr. Stokes: It is not a shortage; it is just a maldistribution.

Mr. Wildman: That is what the present Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) once

said when she was Minister of Labour. She said it was a maldistribution of labour.

We have had a shortage of many different kinds of professionals. I know we have always recognized that. They have this travelling road show every year to try to attract doctors to northern Ontario. We had a doctor leave White River; a clinic has been established there. We have a clinic in Dubreuilville; there is no doctor there. There are doctors who travel into those communities on a weekly basis from Wawa when they are there, but the problem we now have is that many of the doctors have left Wawa. They have to be supplemented by the Ministry of Health, Dr. Copeman's program, a locum program. We are left now without adequate servicing for the community of Dubreuilville even though the Ministry of Northern Affairs, in its wisdom, did provide funding for a clinic in that community.

That has been a long-recognized problem. However, there is another problem that has not been as well recognized. I refer to the lack of therapists of various types in northern Ontario. We need physiotherapists and speech therapists and we do not have them.

I recently had an opportunity to meet with a young couple who live in Hawk Junction, near Wawa, and have a severely handicapped child. They do not want their son to have to move away from home to get the treatment he needs.

Unfortunately, the member for Lake Nipigon has decided he wants to monopolize the minister's time.

I will close by saying that in this particular situation, the Ministry of Community and Social Services has set up a temporary program. They are going to have a rotating therapy program, where a speech therapist, a physiotherapist and so on are coming in on a rotating basis temporarily for one year. My questions are, what happens after that and what involvement, if any, does the Ministry of Northern Affairs have in meeting the needs of such people and in attracting therapists?

I know there is a bursary program to attract northern Ontario students who are interested in going into therapy of various types at universities in Canada, as long as they are prepared to stay in northern Ontario for a number of years. I understand, but I may be wrong on this, that there are only 15 or 18 bursaries awarded each year under that program. Is that correct? If it is, it does not seem to me to meet the need. I know the member for Lake Nipigon has some interest in

this situation because his daughter is studying in that field.

Mr. Stokes: It is costing me \$35,000 to keep her at Northwestern in Evanston, Illinois.

Mr. Wildman: While I appreciate the criterion that these students should attend Canadian universities, it seems to me the programs available in Canadian universities are severely limited. There are not many spaces available. If we do have a student from northern Ontario who is prepared to enter one of these fields, where we all recognize there is a shortage, a student who cannot obtain a place in a Canadian university and is attending a very reputable school in the United States and will become a very qualified professional when he or she graduates, I do not see why the Ministry of Northern Affairs will not provide a bursary for that kind of student. I do not know why there is not that kind of assistance.

The only other issue I want to raise is that of meeting the needs, which are becoming even more severe throughout northern Ontario and locally in my area, for detoxification centres and treatment. I suppose it relates to the economic situation, but the district of Algoma is suffering from one of the highest rates of alcoholism and other types of substance abuse of any part of the country. We do have some detox facilities available for men, but there is a crying need for that kind of facility for women.

When I say they are for men, I do not want to give the impression that females are excluded from the facilities that have been established in Sault Ste. Marie, Elliot Lake or Thunder Bay. There is no question that they are admitted, but the whole atmosphere in those facilities is male-dominated. Most of the people who go to those facilities are men, and it is very difficult for a woman to go.

I believe some proposals have been made for this type of facility in our area for females, and I would like to know what role, if any, the Ministry of Northern Affairs has in persuading the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Community and Social Services to meet that need.

4:50 p.m.

To sum up, basically I am most concerned about the minister's position in persuading government policy to change with regard to medically necessary travel. I would like to know the timetable under which we will have the fulfilment of the minister's promise with regard to EldCap and specifically in my area as it relates to Wawa. I would also like to know what new approaches, if any, the provincial government is

prepared to take to try to persuade more health care professionals, both physicians and therapists, to come and stay in northern Ontario. Also, I wonder what the government plans to do about a particular problem of great concern in our area, which is a problem throughout northern Ontario: the need for more detoxification centres, alcohol and drug abuse rehabilitation programs, especially as they relate to women.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, if I may respond to the member for Algoma, I am very sensitive to his problems with respect to health care in northern Ontario. We as a ministry take a great deal of pride in our efforts to improve the health care service and its delivery in northern Ontario. As I have said so many times in my public statements, this was an area we identified very early in the ministry's existence. There is no question it needed some special attention.

One of the first decisions we made was to provide the Ministry of Health with 10 mobile dental coaches. That was done in the first month of our existence. We said to the Ministry of Health: "Here are the capital dollars to buy 10 mobile dental coaches. You staff them." The ministry jumped on it. I believe 118 communities are served by those dental coaches. Beginning from that early stage in our existence, health care and health care delivery were areas of which we were very cognizant. We knew there was a need to improve them in a number of different fields, and I think we did that.

I share the member's concern, and that of all the members from northern Ontario, with respect to the high cost of travel in time of sickness. There was a lot of support in principle on this side of the House for something that would help alleviate that financial problem in a time of crisis. I pointed out to the member for Lake Nipigon when we discussed this matter earlier that the Ontario health insurance plan was expanded in the past two or three years to cover a situation in which a patient is transferred on the advice of the attending physician from one hospital to another hospital and returned.

Mr. Wildman: We know why that is. A lot of the doctors in southern Ontario do not understand that and they release patients from the hospital in southern Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I am having some problems in my own area with respect to that. There is no question about that.

One of the things we have to be cognizant of is what is happening in northern Ontario with respect to becoming self-sufficient. The member referred to attracting professionals. We cannot

have it both ways. We cannot be sending our patients out to Toronto, Winnipeg and the Mayo clinic and still have the development of professionals and keep the professionals in northern Ontario.

When I look across the north, I see the cancer centre being established in Thunder Bay, an excellent cancer centre directly connected with the Princess Margaret Hospital here in Toronto. I also see the cardiac centre in Sudbury, which is growing every day. In addition, the burn centre in Sudbury, the cancer centre in Sudbury and a neonatal centre in Sault Ste. Marie have been developed over the past five or six years. They are major centres that help to make us self-sufficient in the delivery of health care services.

Mr. Wildman: If one wants to travel more than 200 miles.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I realize that. It is a big country up there. Even the hospital board in the town of Kenora feels it can provide specialized service in some field. It is examining which field it can specialize in, because many of the northwestern Ontario patients now are going to Winnipeg. The board members think it could be kept right in Ontario.

Again, the need is to keep patients in this great province of ours and to attract professionals. There is no question about it. It is our desire to keep as many professionals in the field in northern Ontario as we possibly can.

The member referred to the rotating specialists with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. We are not involved directly with the ministry, but we are involved with the Ministry of Health with respect to Dr. Jack Remus. The member for Lake Nipigon is aware that Dr. Remus is working very closely with the general practitioners in the Red Lake, Sioux Lookout and Rainy River areas. A general practitioner will set up a number of appointments for a gynaecologist or a paediatrician, who move around. The Ministry of Health pays the travel costs and extraordinary expenses incurred in bringing those specialists to the hospitals in those small communities. That seems to be working. It is a step in the right direction, but even he has some difficulty in getting the right specialists to move into the right areas at the right times. It is those kinds of innovative things that—

Mr. Stokes: Did the minister say he does not have an arrangement between the Ministry of Community and Social Services and his ministry for trained speech pathologists?

Mr. Wildman: Therapists. I was talking about therapists, not specialists.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We have a bursary program—

Mr. Stokes: That is what my colleague is talking about.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: —but we do not have a working relationship with respect to moving into the north and giving some direction.

Mr. Stokes: No. Bursaries.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Bursaries? Yes, we do.

The member mentioned the EldCap program, which is one program I am very proud of. As I have said so many times, it is a unique northern Ontario program designed in northern Ontario for northerners, and it is moving ahead. As he correctly pointed out, we have approved five communities: Atikokan, Dryden, Geraldton, Sioux Lookout and Smooth Rock Falls. We have applications under review now and waiting for funding approval. That is what we are getting into, because as I said in my opening statement upon the announcement of the program, we were projecting \$25 million to \$30 million over the next five years. Obviously these funds had to be spread out on a year-to-year basis, and it would be impossible to approve them all at the same time because we would not have the funding.

Applications are under review and awaiting funding approval for Blind River, Hornepayne, Nipigon, Rainy River and Wawa. I will be meeting with Chapleau on November 1 to discuss its particular problem. Members might be interested to know that we have letters of intent from Marathon and Red Lake.

We have a good deal of interest in this particular program. It is one that is slightly more costly than we had originally expected. As I said earlier to the member for Lake Nipigon, some of the hospitals are actually being doubled in size. Sioux Lookout is a good example. As I have said so many times, the renovations needed in that hospital with those 20 beds are going to cost somebody close to \$5 million. The town of Sioux Lookout has to raise more than \$900,000; it has raised about \$360,000 now. It shows the extent of the program, but it also shows the interest of the general public.

When I was up there making the announcement, after some discussion and after working closely with the district health council—because it sets the priorities—and with the hospital board, I revealed to the general public and to the fund-raising committee that they had to raise \$900,000. There was not even a whimper. They said, “We will raise it,” because they are so sold on the program. There is just no question about it. They think they can do it. They will spread it

over a few years, but they are confident they can raise that kind of money.

I was a little surprised. I thought if they could raise \$500,000, that would be the extent of it. When one realizes there are only about 2,700 people there, one must agree that they have enthusiasm and drive.

Concerning the recruitment program, that program is on this week. As I said earlier in my comments, the representatives from the various communities are down at the various campuses meeting with doctors and dentists. They will be in Toronto on Friday of this week; so if members are here, they are certainly encouraged to go and meet them. It is at the Royal York Hotel; members can drop in any time in the afternoon and evening, I am told, and see the representatives of their communities.

In answer to the member's question, I was interested that he mentioned certain communities in his area that were in need of doctors and other professionals, but I was disappointed to know that Wawa, White River and Dubreuilville are not represented in this recruitment tour. Those three municipalities, in our opinion, should be there. I do not know why they are not, but they are not there.

5 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: I think White River came in late.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I see. Let us hope that if it is not there this year, it will be there next year, because I think it is really worth while. The need changes from year to year; there is no question about it. Doctors come and go; if you come down on a regular basis, you certainly keep your foot in the door and you keep the name of your community before those students who may graduate a year or two or three down the road.

I would encourage the municipalities to attend, because we fund the transportation costs; there is very little cost to the municipalities. It is just the time and effort taken by the individual members of the council to sell their particular community.

Members will be interested to know that this year alone we have bursaries for 71 health specialists through the Ministry of Northern Affairs. We hope they will spin off into northern Ontario for a couple years. That is a sizeable acceptance. When one thinks that 71 students are interested in our program, it is very encouraging.

The Deputy Chairman: Is the member for Algoma just about finished? There are others who want to participate.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, may I ask one question?

The Deputy Chairman: Yes.

Mr. Wildman: In relation to the EldCap program, the minister listed the communities that have applications being reviewed. Was that just a random list or was it in any way related to priority? If it was not, can he indicate what the role is of the district health council in determining a priority?

As I understand it, the Algoma District Health Council set the priorities for the three communities from its area as Wawa first, Hornepayne second and Blind River third. As I said, Wawa has already collected the money locally to help pay for it. Hornepayne has a so-called pilot project, which has been in operation since 1974, and the building needs to be replaced. Blind River, of course, has a need as well.

Are the priorities set by the Algoma District Health Council generally accepted by the Ministry of Northern Affairs in determining how it allocates the funds when they become available?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The list I gave the member was an alphabetical list and in no way sets the priorities. However, he is correct; we lean very heavily on the district health council. If memory serves me correctly, Wawa was number one on the list after Sioux Lookout.

I might say that I had some considerable problems in the Sioux Lookout area. I do not know whether the member is aware that the health council had identified Sioux Lookout as the number one priority in northwestern Ontario and that it was approved only last week. Living 15 miles from Sioux Lookout, it was very uncomfortable for the last year and a half, I have to admit that; but there were problems with the amalgamation that we had to sort out before we could make a decision and move on with it.

I failed to respond to two points raised by the member for Algoma. One point was about the reserve fund. I was not aware that was happening. I do not know the answer to it, but we will certainly look into it to see if there is some way we can help to alleviate that problem, because it should not be applied and used against a community in the calculation of the unconditional grants or other funds flowing to that municipality.

The area of detoxification centres for females is one that I must admit has surfaced in our discussions with the Ministry of Community and Social Services. In our close relationship with that ministry of late with respect to battered

women's centres and my involvement through the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development in funding those programs, the direct relationship to detox centres for females has not surfaced. We will certainly look at it very carefully, both in the northeast and the northwest. We have made note of it, and if there is some way we can move ahead in those areas, we certainly will.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take part in the debate on the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs and bring to the minister's attention that we had the closing of an IMC affiliated plant at Port Maitland this past summer where 167 employees were laid off.

During the discussions we had with the company people and in looking closely at the products and where the raw material came from, it came to our attention that Sherritt Gordon Mines Ltd. owned rights on phosphate rock in northern Ontario—I believe it is in the Cochrane-Timmins area, but I am not exactly sure of the location—and that the raw material from there was of better quality than that which was being imported from Florida. The fact that they were bringing the material in and processing it at Port Maitland led to the loss of those jobs. That plant has been closed and it is now used only as a distribution centre for the finished product, putting those people out of work.

Is the minister aware of the potential development of that product in northern Ontario?

Mr. Stokes: There are phosphates in Kapuskasing.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Is it Kapuskasing? I know the holdings are owned by Sherritt Gordon. We are also trying to use sulphuric acid from Inco and other plants. In combination, it is a major product in making phosphorus fertilizer, plus animal food and many other products. It would displace import products. It is something the agricultural industry is in need of in southern Ontario and across Canada. Is the minister aware of this? What is he doing about it? What is the potential?

The second thing I would like to bring to the minister's attention is the air ambulance service in northern Ontario. It has been discussed many times by representatives from the area and by our critic, but it also came to my attention because of a young couple in Matheson, Ontario, who have a son who lost an eye last summer. He is coming along all right, but he needs a transplant to replace that eye. Apparently, the ambulance service is not available for that service.

It seems to me it should be, because any transplant requires being in Toronto at a specific time, within a few hours, to take advantage of it. I think a young lad who has had such a misfortune should have that opportunity. I can give the minister the name of the individual and I will do so. I feel they should have the opportunity of utilizing this service. They are a young farming family running a beef farm. The boy is in his teens. It is going to put a burden on them to have him transported to Toronto at the opportune time.

These are the two concerns I would like to bring to the minister's attention. I will listen to his response.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the member for Haldimand-Norfolk for participating and sharing with us some of his thoughts with respect to a property in the Kapuskasing area. It is known as the Cargill property. We have had ongoing discussions with the Sherritt Gordon people in a number of different areas, principally with respect to road access to the property under our northern Ontario resources transportation committee. We did give them all the encouragement we could, if the economics were correct, for the development of that property.

Mr. Stokes: Transportation costs are a problem.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is my next point. The transportation cost is what has really put it in limbo. Moving that product down to Port Maitland was not going to make it economically feasible. We understand exhaustive re-examination of the feasibility of bringing that property into production is going on. I might say the enthusiasm of Sherritt Gordon is very real.

I am a little bit parochial. I hope the members will excuse that. If we can find some way to have that product fully processed in northern Ontario, I think the members would want me to support that position.

Mr. Stokes: Somewhere between Kapuskasing and Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is exactly right.

These are the problems we have. We would like to keep those jobs in northern Ontario. There is a real need for them. There is a bit of a tug of war going on there, but certainly we are on top of it and watching it very carefully. We will do anything we can do to make it happen.

5:10 p.m.

In connection with the air ambulance service, I must point out it is the doctor's decision. He has full and total control of how a patient will move

from hospital to hospital. If the doctor feels it should be by land ambulance, he makes that decision. If he thinks it should be by air ambulance, all he has to do is say so. It is on his authority that the air ambulance is ordered. I make that very clear. It is on the authority of no one else. The attending physician makes the decision.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Chairman, it has been a long wait. I would like, in characteristic fashion, to start by commending the minister for showing a great degree of wisdom in a statement he made while he was in Sudbury recently when he declared with great fanfare that he was not seeking the leadership of his party.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I knew that compliment was coming. At least nobody else declared.

Mr. Laughren: I have heard of stating the obvious, but that is really carrying it to an art form.

I want to mention a couple of things to the minister. One is that I do not like what is happening between his ministry and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Natural Resources—he touched on it in his earlier remarks—when it comes to road access to small communities.

There is a policy change without it being announced and I do not think that is fair. Where for years people had road maintenance provided to them by one ministry or another, now we are getting letters that state this will no longer be done. I will give the minister an example. This letter comes from the Ministry of Natural Resources, not from Northern Affairs. I think the Ministry of Northern Affairs should be looking after these kinds of problems.

This is a letter to residents near Chapleau who live down what is known as the Esher-Healey Road.

"I am writing to inform you that the Ministry of Natural Resources will not be involved in any future grading or maintenance work on the Esher-Healey Road. The ministry no longer has management programs requiring road access from the Esher-Healey Road network. Any ongoing maintenance on this road will require initiative and involvement of residents using the road."

That is really the operative part of the letter.

What bothers me about this case is that the road is about 17 miles long. Another example the minister mentioned is Biscotasing. The road is 18 or 19 miles long. Those people are being asked to form a local roads board to look after maintenance on a road that long. I do not think that was

the original intent of local roads boards. I think it is unfair to those communities. When other communities have a highway going into their community and it is the only road in they are not asked to form a roads board to look after the maintenance of the highway.

Yet here, in these situations—these are communities, particularly Biscotasing, that are more spread out; it is mainly camps and so forth—when the Ministry of Natural Resources is finished with the community, for whatever reason, they just say, “All right, we have what we want out of the community; you are on your own now.” That is simply not appropriate.

I do not believe it is right for the Ministry of Northern Affairs to sit back and watch this happen, such as the Biscotasing situation. How does the minister expect those people in that community, most of whom are low income, many of whom are senior citizens, to form a local roads board to look after 18 or 19 miles of road?

If the minister wants to talk about maintenance of roads within the community itself, I have no problem with that. I am not objecting to the principle of local roads boards. What I object to is when that principle is taken and expanded into an access road that can run for many miles. I think it is an unfair imposition on those small communities. That is one problem I have with roads in northern Ontario.

The second problem has to do with unorganized communities with no municipal organizations. In some communities there is a municipal organization, but the community may be only 400 to 500 people with a town council. Going through that community will be a road that goes to a lake. The road may wind through the township to the lake. A lot of cottagers will use the lake. There can be a lodge or two down at the end of the road and so forth.

The only people with the responsibility for that road are in the town itself, yet they derive no taxation, no revenue from the people who use the road because the lake is outside the boundaries of the town. There are a couple of communities in my constituency named Nairn Centre and McKerrow. The minister may have seen some of the letters I have written about them over the years.

Something needs to be changed. There is a gap in the legislation. I think the gap is with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications more than it is with the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I do not believe that in the first case, but I believe it in this case. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications needs to take a

look at its policy. I raised this in the MTC estimates but I did not get very far.

It is unfair to ask 500 people in a community, and perhaps even fewer, to maintain a road from which they get no revenue. The people who use it pay no revenue to that community whatsoever; absolutely none.

In some cases there may be gravel pits on the road. They haul gravel out along it and the trucks are hard on the road. A real burden is being imposed on a small number of people, not the people who are getting the benefit from the expenditures on the road.

Those are two areas where the Ministry of Northern Affairs, because by its nature it is a co-ordinating ministry, should play a more positive role and come to the defence of those communities.

The other issue I want to touch on briefly is the whole question of extended care beds. The example of Chapleau is a classic case of being jerked around by government. I saw the original telex the minister sent out. Was it three years ago?

Mr. Stokes: It was the spring of 1982.

Mr. Laughren: It was the spring of 1982, so it was two and a half years ago. I saw that original telex.

Mr. Stokes: In the throne speech.

Mr. Laughren: Right.

In the telex the minister stated what the rules were. I believe Chapleau was the very first community to submit a bid for that program. To this day, it still does not have the extended care beds.

The excuses that have been used are bureaucratic. It is not a question of need; that I could understand. If the Ministry of Health or the Ministry of Northern Affairs were to say, “We have determined you do not need it,” that is an argument that could be debated. However, they throw back at the community bureaucratic reasons such as, “You did not use the right term.” I think they used “chronic care” and they were supposed to use “extended care.” The minister knew what they were talking about. They were responding to his telex. It is unfair and leaves a bad taste in the mouths of residents of the community.

What we need to have is some concrete indication from the minister that this was not just a game that was being played on that community. It is unfair to raise people’s expectations that way and then get into a long, stalling game. It is terribly frustrating for volunteer people in the community who work very hard to try to put

something together. They serve on the hospital board and that tends to be a thankless task. There are a lot of meetings and a lot of hard work. It is unfair to be treated that way.

I ask the minister to respond to those issues and to the whole question of extended care beds.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is always a pleasure to have the member for Nickel Belt participate. His contribution is always welcome. Sometimes it is more welcome than at other times; nevertheless, he makes a contribution.

As to his concern about the roads to those small pockets of population, it is sometimes difficult. As I said a few moments ago, we have established within the government a ministerial committee, chaired by Northern Affairs. It is obvious that in the past, with the budget of the Ministry of Natural Resources, they were able and I think they had—

Mr. Stokes: Who chairs that committee?

5:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Rudi Wycliffe was the chairman of it. He has since moved down to MTC. He was the interministerial chairman of that committee.

Mr. Stokes: So you do not have a chairman now?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We do not have a chairman now. I think they formed a policy and forwarded it to the ministry for review.

When the budget of the Ministry of Natural Resources was much higher, it had the luxury of looking after those small pockets of population. As we have come into the restraint period and cutbacks, they are feeling the squeeze, obviously. Their area of responsibility has been fulfilled, so they are looking for other ministries to take over. MTC says the road is not up to certain secondary highway standards which we hear so much about. Obviously, that is their policy. So now Northern Affairs has to move in.

Mr. Laughren: They are not moving in.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We are moving in slowly.

Mr. Laughren: The ministry is backing off. It is not moving in.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In these small areas I think the locals have to contribute a little. The setting up of a local roads board is not difficult. Ten people can set up a local roads board.

Mr. Laughren: Not for 20 miles of road.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Wait a minute. They can look after their own specific needs; a small contribution shows their interest and their priorities, if they want to look after that long section of

road. I was secretary of the local roads board for years. We always applied for a supplementary grant and this was always given to us by MTC to look after that special need. The road was never brought up to secondary standards, but it fulfilled a requirement.

It is much easier to deal with a group that is organized under a piece of legislation than to deal with nobody. We set up the local services board because we had nobody to work with. That is why we require a local roads board. It is much easier to deal with a body. Ten people can form a body. MTC officials will guide them and help them every step of the way. At least one is dealing with an organized body with a chairman and a secretary-treasurer and there is a small contribution.

I do not think it is asking too much. I do not think those people expect a free ride. Sometimes I know they get frustrated and upset with having to set up a small organization.

Mr. Laughren: It is not a free ride.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, it cannot be. I do not think the member would expect us to do it.

I am confident, as we move down the road step by step—not as fast as some would like—we will respond to specific needs of places like Oba and Biscotasing. We responded to Hillsport, as the member for Lake Nipigon well knows, in a very different way. We brought the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Canadian National Railway and the locals together and we worked out an arrangement that is working fairly well. I think if we do it on that basis—and there are not that many problems in that area; perhaps half a dozen—we can respond to those.

We have discussed the EldCap program at length during these estimates. If my memory serves me correctly, Chapleau did contact me, but with the proviso that it would require some financial assistance for its one sixth because of the financial condition of the community at that point. This was a couple of years ago.

Mr. Stokes: They were under supervision.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is right. They were having extreme difficulty in raising their one sixth. If it was not in written correspondence, it was a verbal request asking if we could provide 100 per cent of the funding. That was a little difficult, and I indicated that to them. They are coming in to talk to me on November 1. I think they pulled together a very positive, sound proposal that we will look at very carefully.

We want to help as many municipalities as we can. That is what this program is all about, to provide 20 extended care beds in the community,

adjacent to the hospital. That is the whole program. So if we can move it ahead as quickly as we can, great.

We are also going to talk to the Chapleau people about a medical clinic. I think they would like a medical clinic established in their community. We have supported something like 44 across northern Ontario. If they come forward with a proposal, we will be only too glad to respond.

Mr. Laughren: What bothers me about the minister is that he is so negative. He is a bobbing, weaving nabob of negativism in northern Ontario. Those of us in the north who like to be positive are getting really tired of the minister being so negative all the time. He has to stop saying no.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Those are my words to the member. Say yes, I tell him.

Mr. Stokes: It's just doom and gloom.

Mr. Laughren: Yes. It is just doom and gloom all the time. He has to start saying yes to these communities.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Give me the bank book and I will say yes to everything.

Mr. Laughren: The minister has to indicate he has faith in these communities. We believe it is appropriate that a different kind of funding arrangement be worked out. The minister kept hinting at things such as the Biscotasing road, but I did not hear him say anything. I do not know how he expects that small community with low-income people and many senior citizens to look after its own.

I agree there should be an immediate local roads board. That is no problem. But I think it is fundamentally wrong, wrong in principle, to say this local roads board is then responsible for 18 more miles or 20 more miles. That is where the minister and I are parting company.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, we are not.

Mr. Laughren: Yes, we are. What program is there? Right now there is no local roads board there; there is no local services board either. There is a citizens' committee.

I will tell the minister that right now it looks to me as if they are not going to form a local roads board. That seems to be where they are at right at this point. They are so jumpy about that long road that they do not want to form a local roads board and get nailed for the maintenance of it.

If they do form a local roads board, what kind of assistance is there beyond the normal two to one for that road? I do not believe it is fair to impose that distance on them.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As I said a moment ago, there are supplementary grants for which the local roads board can apply. Certainly, we would go in to help them as well, but the program is set up on a two-to-one basis for pockets of 10 people. If they do not move and take the initial step to show some leadership and desire on their part, then I think they are lacking in foresight. Pull them together to have a Biscotasing voice. There is nothing wrong with that really. I am sure if we have a voice or a body to deal with, we can resolve this situation. It is really not a big issue.

I agree with the member they should not be totally responsible for a long length of highway. I think it would be unreasonable to ask that, but they should make some contribution.

Mr. Laughren: Finally, the other issue the minister did not deal with is what happens when there is an organized community, a road goes through that organized community to the other side—to a lake, for example—and there are lodges, cottages and so forth on that lake. The road must be maintained, sometimes summer and winter—or at least there are pressures to do so—and the only organization that is available to do it is the municipality. It is very expensive and the municipality obtains no revenues from the people who will benefit from it.

I think some kind of program needs to be worked out. I am not sure it should be through the Ministry of Northern Affairs; I am not sure who it should be. That is why I mentioned the co-ordinating role of the minister, for which he is so famous. The other ministries just sit and wait for the Ministry of Northern Affairs to appear on the scene to work out all their problems for them. There should be something there and the Ministry of Northern Affairs should have a role to play to see if it can be worked out, because it simply is not appropriate for that small a community to be expected to look after that kind of road.

Does the minister have any hope for those kinds of communities?

Mr. Stokes: What he is saying is that maybe the minister should not be the mover but he should be the shaker.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If the honourable member will give me a few specific examples, I will have them investigated. Just send me a list of those communities that are having this particular problem. It may well be that they should expand their taxation boundaries or there may be something we could help them with. We will be glad to work closely with them.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I would like to go back to the points I raised in the latter part of Friday morning's session and give the minister the opportunity to respond to them. When he is finished with that I will defer to the member for Lake Nipigon, as we are heading into the last few minutes of the estimates. As we all know, on this particular occasion we are not only winding up the estimates, we are winding down the member for Lake Nipigon.

Mr. Foulds: We will never wind down the member for Lake Nipigon.

Mr. Van Horne: In so far as this activity is concerned. These New Democrats always jump the gun; they should allow us to finish.

Would the minister please make reference to the seasonally adjusted hydro rate proposal, to the northern Ontario development funding, the slippage I made reference to; and to the questions on the Orders and Notices, which I also made reference to?

5:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: With respect to the seasonally adjusted hydro rates, I think the member is very much aware of the position our northern caucus took with respect to that proposal.

Mr. Laughren: Was that the idea of the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon)?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member for Sudbury was certainly a spark plug on the whole issue. He was quite vocal and carried the debate very effectively. I do not think that position has changed.

We are working very closely with our own municipal advisory committees in the northeast and northwest. I can assure the member we are monitoring with Ontario Hydro very closely. I have to share with the member some comfort in the fact that the new chairman of Ontario Hydro is a former deputy minister of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, a fellow who hails from Chapleau.

If there is anybody who has a feel for northern Ontario, it will be the new chairman of Ontario Hydro. I hope to have lunch with him in the not too distant future to lay this issue before him and to express a point of view that was expressed so many times, so effectively, by many members of our northern caucus.

Mr. Van Horne: Is the minister taking his eight-ounce gloves with him?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: My 10-ounce gloves.

The member asked about Orders and Notices questions. I have a list of them here. I could read

them into the record, but it would take the next half hour to do it, so I will not. I will just pass them over to him; then I can elaborate further on what has already been spelled out in answer to his questions.

In connection with Minaki Lodge, I refer the member to page 2969, November 9, 1983, of Hansard. The Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Mr. Baetz) spelled out all the capital costs for Minaki, which shows a development cost of about \$26 million. It is spelled out very clearly in answer to a question, so I do not think I should repeat it today, except to say that after my discussions with officials over the weekend about Minaki Lodge I am so excited about Minaki Lodge, it is not even funny. It has really gone over. There was 92 per cent occupancy in August, September and October. In fact, one cannot get into the place.

Mr. Laughren: Is it breaking even yet?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, it will make money next year. It will be in the black next year.

Mr. Foulds: And pay back all the capital costs?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Eventually, it will. It is the most exciting tourist development in northern Ontario today and the most successful.

Mr. Foulds: I am glad to see the minister positive. We have had enough negativism.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am very positive. I am excited about it because all the sceptics are going to eat crow in the next year or two.

Mr. Foulds: Is that what they serve at Minaki?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No. I am going to serve it on the road to Minaki and stop them coming in.

This year they had a total of 179 employees. They had a low of 157 and a high of 179. In my discussion with the manager on Saturday he informed me they are planning to hire 212 next year.

Mr. Laughren: How many full-time?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: These are all seasonal, of course, until we go on a full-time basis. They are looking at that very carefully now.

Mr. Stokes: How many from Minaki? That is the question.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, it is not the point at all. Minaki Lodge, and I have said it publicly, was not developed for the people of Minaki.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, it was.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No. It was developed for the entire region. People in Minaki have to compete with other people from the region. We set up, through our ministry and Confederation

College of Applied Arts and Technology, two years prior to Minaki being open, schools at Holst Point Lodge to upgrade those people so they could compete for those jobs and they are competing for them as much as they can.

The spinoff is absolutely fantastic. The spinoff of Minaki is unreal. It was felt so strongly that if one looks at the results of the last federal election, one knows what happened. The people knew a Tory government had responded to their needs, and they mixed up the federal Tories with the provincial Tories and voted overwhelmingly in favour of the federal Tories.

Mr. Foulds: In Minaki?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In Minaki.

Mr. Foulds: Have they not always? I thought they did that last time too.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is the sensitivity those people have. They are excited about it. Believe me, the members are going to hear good things about Minaki from here on in. This year alone it has turned away 537 room-days it was unable to fulfil because of lack of accommodation.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the minister for providing what would seem to be a fair bit of detail to answer the questions we had put on the Orders and Notices paper.

One item I would like to pursue for a moment is the technical consulting service amounts. They vary from \$108,000 for the last year the minister was able to get us to \$95,000 for the preceding year. The year before that was \$154,000; the year before that was almost \$200,000. It seems to range between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per year.

Judging from the detail of the latter couple of years where I see there are 10 different associations, planning groups or engineering groups that have been involved, perhaps the minister could indicate whether there is any carryover from one year to the next. Are there any long-range consulting service projects that he can elaborate on? Are these individual year-to-year projects he has presented to them?

I note some of these contracts are tendered and some are not. I am not sure how one can distinguish between those that are tendered and those that are not.

The final question would be whether there is any general theme. For example, two of my colleagues have spoken on agriculture today. I think that is reflective of the concern of our caucus for the development of that resource in the north. Is there any indication that some of these

projects have addressed themselves to the agricultural process? Is it mainly in the natural resource area, forestry or whatever? Is it in roads? Is it in transportation? Could the minister elaborate just briefly on that technical consulting service feature?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: To explain further to the member, he will note the 1978-79 information is detailed by the consulting services, as is the 1979-80 information. We would have to go back into the archives for this information. The staff felt that if we could give you the 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83 information details that would give the plan and the thrust of our consulting services. The member can get the feel of it without the costly time of the staff going back.

The areas of consulting are very broad. There is no question about it. We tender those over \$15,000, although there are a couple of discrepancies. One is Kadoke Display Industries in 1980-81, which was \$17,000, but that was a continuation of a previous contract that was tendered into. It was just continuing its work with Ontario North Now development.

I think one that is ongoing would be the wild rice study by Lakehead University. That is \$100,000 a year. We think it is a very worthwhile research and development program. It is one about which I spoke at great length.

This is so broad and general. If there are any specific areas on which the member wants information, I would be pleased to get the information. This gives him the trend of our consulting services. I might say that in this whole package there is no polling done by the Ministry of Northern Affairs. There are no polls taken.

Mr. Wildman: The minister has his ear so close to the ground he does not need it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is right.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: There are two items I would like to bring to the attention of the minister and his staff.

I got a very urgent call just before lunch today from the clerk-treasurer of Marathon and another concerned citizen. It seems that because of the shortage of accommodation for the work force in the Hemlo area, we have three areas—or two anyway—where there is unauthorized occupation of crown land. One of them is encroaching on the right of way of Highway 17, just east of the junction of Highways 17 and 614. The other is right at the junction, at the Shell garage. There

are about 70 people who do not know where they are going to live.

I spoke to Ernie Lane of the ministry just before lunch today. He is the chairman of the Hemlo co-ordinating committee and he is aware of it.

One of the suggestions they made when they were talking about the problem on Friday was that they should enlist the assistance of the Ministry of Natural Resources to reopen White Lake Provincial Park.

I spoke to the policy co-ordinator for the parks branch of the Ministry of Natural Resources just after lunch, and I spoke to a representative of the Wawa office of the Ministry of Natural Resources. They are aware of the problem.

The only reason I am bringing it to the minister's attention is that we are going to be getting a call from about 70 people who are in Pen Lake park at the junction of Highways 17 and 614, and at Wabikoka Creek east of the junction. There are about 70 people in total. I have had two calls about it already today.

I am suggesting that the minister assist Ernie Lane in making representations to his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) to see whether we can work out some way of getting them into an organized area such as White Lake Provincial Park. It is the most obvious place because there does not seem to be any other alternative at the present time. That is one of the problems.

The other problem is that the minister in his leadoff statement mentioned an article in the Northern Business News. I know we have discussed Nordev briefly, but I want to find out whether the minister has read this article and whether he subscribes to its contents. I am quoting from the last issue of the Northern Business News.

It says: "Nine hundred jobs disappearing here, 3,000 jobs there and 450 jobs somewhere else. Inco continues to trim its Sudbury work force, Algoma Steel in Sault Ste. Marie sits waiting for a recovery that shows no signs of materializing and in Timmins low ore grades have finally caught up with the Pamour Porcupine Mines. These job losses make big headlines and so they should.

"Northern Ontario has lost a lot of jobs in the last few years and will likely continue losing them in the years ahead as economic stagnation, high interest rates, increasing competition from around the world and a trend towards doing more with fewer bodies all take their toll. Who will replace those jobs? Not big business, that is for

sure. The engine of economic growth and diversification is the small businessman with the ideas, the perseverance, the dedication and the ambition to succeed.

"In a period of transition such as we are now experiencing, it is the small businessman we rely on to spot new opportunities and take advantage of them. Small businesses that are lean, mean and quick on their feet can make snap decisions when they are needed and act on them without wasting time. Individually, they may not create what would be thought of as significant numbers of jobs, but together they are a force to be reckoned with and some of them do grow into big business along the way."

I have a full analysis of the amount of dollars and the number of applications that have been approved as loans through the Northern Ontario Development Corp., the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. and the Ontario Development Corp. I have some of the most recent statistics for the other program, the Nordev program.

It seems to me when one gets those kinds of editorials coming out of a northern newspaper, which is in a very real sense a spokesman for a good many people in northern Ontario—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Who is the author?

Mr. Stokes: It must have been Atkins himself; it is on the editorial page. It was either Norman Tollinsky or Michael Atkins himself, but it is an editorial.

Does the minister subscribe to the notion in that article that if we are going to turn things around in the immediate or long-term future of northern Ontario, we are not going to be able to rely on the primary resource sector to fuel the economy? Does this mean we are not going to be able to find new jobs in forestry and mining? Are we going to have to rely on small businessmen to create five, 10 or 15 jobs here or there to fuel the economy and allow northern Ontario to keep pace with other areas of the province if and when the overall economic picture, nationally and internationally, turns around?

The minister will know better than most what the situation has been like in Sudbury and Sault Ste. Marie. The parliamentary assistant can tell the minister there are a lot of jobs which we considered traditional in the city of Thunder Bay, surrounding the Can-Car plant of Hawker Siddeley Canada Inc., where we have only a fraction of the work force we once had.

What is the minister's prognostication and what is his solution to this stagnating economy that seems to be all too prevalent in northern Ontario? Is there a hope for major manufacturing

or are we going to be piddling around with a few jobs there or a few jobs wherever we can get them to replace the literally hundreds and thousands of jobs that are going down the drain because of the metal markets, automation or technological change?

What is the minister's prognostication for the future of northern Ontario to maintain existing jobs and to replace those that are being lost in the way in which this article suggests?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will first address the member's question with respect to the 70-odd people who will be squatting, I suppose we might say, on crown land. I am informed by my staff they are working very closely with the other ministries on this issue.

I would point out that these people do not have jobs; they are job seekers, I am told. The mine does have sufficient accommodation for single workers. I am further told that when these people get jobs and can move into more permanent housing within the communities, the problem will be resolved.

However, we are working with people from the Ministry of Northern Resources with regard to the opening of White Lake Provincial Park as a short-term assistance program to help alleviate the pressure points which are there now.

Most of them are said to be unemployed and looking for jobs.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: I spoke with the Ministry of the Environment this afternoon. They put an order on the location effective noon today. They have to find someplace else to park their trailers. This is with regard to the problem at the junction of Highways 614 and 17.

With regard to the other one, a chap by the name of Mr. Todd of the Ministry of Natural Resources quoted regulation 216/79, which says nobody can stay overnight in a rest area along a highway. Apparently that is where they are.

Mr. Wildman: You can stay for 21 days.

Mr. Stokes: No, you cannot. You cannot park there from 9 p.m. until 5 a.m. any day. It is not a rest area for overnight occupation. I phoned the legislative counsel to dig up that regulation. That is how I happened to know about it.

The thing is, the Ministry of the Environment is telling the group at the junction, "As of today, get out." The Ministry of Transportation and Communications is saying, "You have two weeks to vacate the illegal occupation of this day rest area." It is just provided as a place to pull off

if one is tired or one wants to picnic. It is an illegal occupation, but where do they go?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I will leave this to some of my staff such as Ernie Lane, who has been very effective and very helpful in that area. He assures me the issue will be resolved, we hope, to everybody's satisfaction.

These are the kinds of problems we like and enjoy in northern Ontario. On the one hand, the member is citing an editorial that spoke of doom and gloom and reduction of work force, yet the same editorial makes no reference to the Detour Lake mine or to what is happening at Hemlo and the thousands of employees who will be employed there.

Mr. Stokes: That was written by a friend of the minister's.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I know. It is very disturbing.

Mr. Stokes: I asked if the minister subscribed to those things.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, I do not. I think he misses some very good points on what is happening in northern Ontario. Go to Dryden; there has been a \$350-million expansion program in Dryden and an increase in the work force. Go to Kenora and see what is happening in Kenora with respect to the modernization of the mill there. I hope we will have some news with regard to a new stud mill in Kenora. Things are happening. I am one of those who are very confident that there will be more Detour Lakes.

Mr. Stokes: We are going to lose jobs associated with the Kenora—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It will be resolved. When it is all over, it will be very good for everybody, I am sure of that. I am one of those who are confident that there will be additional Hemlos. When they discovered Detour Lake, everybody was excited about it and said there would be another Detour Lake. Sure enough, there was; it was Hemlo. I am optimistic enough to believe it will happen in the nonrenewable resource field.

The renewable resource field is another area, because as members all know, we are pretty uptight with respect to the availability and the quantity of wood fibre we have.

I do not see any new mills being established. There may be one in northern Ontario, but there is a finite limit on what we can produce and what we have. I will accept that. We have to move into the small economic diversification field, and hence our Nordev program. We have 200 jobs already approved on a long-term basis, working with municipalities, with diversification at the

local level, getting the small businesses involved and 10 to 15 employees here. I think it is about to go.

I do not think we will see Honda in the north. While I appreciate the enthusiasm of the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague) for Honda in Alliston, I do not think Honda will ever establish in northern Ontario. I think the people accept that.

Mr. Wildman: They test their cars in Kapuskasing.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We can do that. I think we have to be creative. I do not think the next decade or two is going to be easy for northern Ontario. I think we will have to use everything at our disposal to be imaginative and creative and to diversify our economy and get the biggest bang for our buck, no matter if it is in tourism, farming or in the nonrenewable resource field or in the renewable resource field. We have to be up front and centre and pulling out all the strings and pulling out all the stops to keep—

Mr. Stokes: Why is the northern economic development item down by \$13 million?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is priority roads.

Mr. Stokes: It was \$56 million and it is down to \$43 million.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is the priority roads package in there. One of the priority roads was Detour Lake and that has dropped off. That is the main reason for that.

Mr. Stokes: Oh, so there was money for the Northern Light Lake road?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, no. The member is confusing the two.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Chairman, I have one short question for the minister about his unorganized community assistance program, which I think is a very good one, with respect to fire protection.

I understand that after some growing pains the township of Aweres fire department is really moving ahead now. It has built a building with federal assistance, and I understand the ministry has committed itself to providing it with a rapid attack vehicle some time in the new year. I wonder if this decision has been finalized and at what date the volunteer fire team might expect to get the equipment it needs from UCAP.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I can confirm that this area will get a rapid attack fire truck, but I cannot confirm the exact date; we are having some problems with the production line.

That program is going exceptionally well. As the member knows, we changed our policy last year to make sure that every community or pocket of population of 100 and above would receive a fire package and that a community of 300 and over would receive a fire truck. We are rapidly reaching that goal, and in the next year or two I think we will have all those areas fully covered. We will then have the largest firefighting capability, at least structurally, on the North American continent, located right in northern Ontario and operated by the fire marshal's office.

The Deputy Chairman: Is there anything further? We have one minute and 21 seconds. Can we proceed with the vote?

Vote 801 agreed to.

Votes 802 to 804, inclusive, agreed to.

The Deputy Chairman: This concludes the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, before we close, I promised the honourable members I would ship them a can of precooked, 100 per cent Kenora wild rice, courtesy of my campaign manager, Mr. Vern Nitisky.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Bernier, the committee of supply reported certain resolutions.

The House adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

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No. 96

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, October 19, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, October 19, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARDS PROGRAM

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to announce a new initiative to recognize the tremendous accomplishments of volunteers whose activities fall within the mandate of the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. A series of awards has been created that recognize both years of service and outstanding volunteer achievements.

There are nearly one million volunteers in Ontario. Their efforts enrich our society enormously. Let me just mention one or two examples.

Many organizations are almost entirely volunteer-run. Caribana, Festitalia, Carousel and many other wonderful multicultural events that we enjoy happen because of volunteer effort that goes into them. The high calibre of dance, music and art that we have in this province is in many ways the result of volunteer support in fund-raising, public awareness and audience development. Community information centres, libraries, English as a second language classes and even the Royal Ontario Museum all operate with the help of volunteers.

Every one of us in this House knows personally the importance of volunteers, for we all rely heavily on their time, their talents and their energies. I am sure members will join me in saluting Ontario's volunteers and their contribution to both the economic and social wellbeing of this province.

This afternoon, at the annual general meeting of the Ontario Association of Volunteer Bureaux/Centres, I will be launching the volunteer awards by presenting a one-time-only award to Avie Flaherty, a woman who has given a great deal of her time to others. Mrs. Flaherty was the driving force behind the establishment of the Ontario Association of Volunteer Bureaux/Centres and has been extremely active in this and other community organizations serving in a number of executive positions.

As I know members would wish me to, I will be thanking all volunteers for a job well done.

HYDE PARK DUMP CLEANUP

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, earlier this week I responded to several members' questions about the Hyde Park landfill site in New York state. While I explained past actions that were taken by my ministry, I was not at liberty at that time to discuss a new development. Today I would like to advise honourable members of the latest initiatives taken by my ministry with respect to the cleanup of the Hyde Park site.

Members may recall that my ministry transmitted to the United States Environmental Protection Agency in July 1984 a report on the inadequacy of detailed site investigations of the Hyde Park dump by Occidental Chemical Corp., formerly known as Hooker Chemicals and Plastics Corp.

In August, Ontario conveyed to the EPA a report that strongly criticized plans developed by Occidental for controlling pollution at this chemical dump site. United States officials were equally critical of the proposals. The proposals in question became the subject of negotiations between the EPA, New York state and Occidental.

A new issue has arisen which could affect Ontario's interests in the matter of Hyde Park, and I should like to advise the members of the action I have taken. The US government, with the support of Occidental, has applied to the US District Court in Buffalo for an order that would effectively prohibit the public release without approval of the court of any new cleanup proposals put forward or any evaluation of those proposals.

This application was prompted by an announcement by the state of New York that it no longer wished to be bound by the confidentiality imposed on the negotiations. New York wants the freedom to release information which the state believes to be in the public interest. Before ruling on this matter, the judge has invited Ontario to comment, and I should like to share with the honourable members the position taken by the province in a submission that is being filed with the court this morning.

Ontario does not believe that negotiations respecting the Hyde Park landfill, or any other such negotiations involving significant issues of public health and safety, should be conducted in private. We do not believe—

Mr. Elston: What about the negotiations in Stouffville?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: My friend will have ample time to ask a question with respect to that at the appropriate time.

Mr. Elston: Those were done in secret.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: We do not believe that restrictions should be placed on information respecting this landfill nor that the opportunity for scrutiny and criticism of cleanup proposals be shrouded in a veil of confidentiality. We contend that the release of information from the negotiations would have significant public benefits. It would enable citizens of both countries to follow the progress of negotiations to see if the information presented was correct and sufficient and to comment before a final cleanup program is cast in stone.

This is not a private lawsuit involving private interests; rather it is a matter of public concern. Ontario believes the court should reject the application made by the government of the United States and allow the negotiations to proceed without any confidentiality restraint.

I am pleased that Ontario was invited to submit its comments to the court, and I trust the position we have taken will effectively influence the outcome of this case.

Mr. Bradley: Are we getting new lawyers?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: No. We are quite satisfied with the present lawyers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I cast my eyes across this chamber and I see a mere handful of ministers. We have reached an accord in this House, as you may know, that the government House leader or someone over there will provide us with a list of the ministers who will not be here. We try to prepare ourselves accordingly. We try to be understanding when ministers are tied up on business.

We frequently see that the list is inaccurate; ministers who are supposed to be, are not here. It is very difficult for the opposition to conduct any meaningful dialogue, not only with the shortage of ministers but also with the bad information that is coming from the government House leader.

I see them scurrying now. I think the statement has to be made by the opposition that they cannot conduct the business of the House this way. Just because there is a leadership convention is no reason for this government to fall apart at the seams or not carry on with its responsibilities.

Mr. Bradley: Here is the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) now.

Mr. Peterson: They turned over some rocks across the way and some of them have scurried out.

I will commence today, Mr. Speaker, but I want you to be aware of the kind of frustration we suffer. I know the government House leader always has problems containing everything—

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Quit wasting time. Let us get on with the business of the House.

Mr. Peterson: I am giving him time to get the ministers out here. I am doing them a favour.

Mr. Speaker, I will not do as I was prepared to do when I started my remarks and move a motion to adjourn, but I am prepared to do that at some time in the future if we have a similar situation. I advise you of that, sir, and through you, the ministry. We will now commence.

10:10 a.m.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities with respect to the strike. Would the minister be good enough to stand in this chamber and tell us of any initiatives she has taken in the little while since the last discussion? My understanding is that the negotiations will not go on again until Monday.

Does she not feel that this is a waste of time? These are three critical days during which work could be going on to try to reach a solution. Why would she not use her good offices and her conciliatory point of view to try to bring those parties together to keep those discussions going today, tomorrow and over the weekend? Why would that not be a constructive approach?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the experts in the area of mediation are those who determine when it is most likely to be successful to resume discussions. Since I am not an expert in mediation, I usually attempt to take the advice of those who are.

There may be talks over the weekend. I cannot tell the honourable member at this point whether or not there will be. That will be determined by those who are in contact with both parties to try to

decide whether it would be fruitful to bring them together at that time.

What we are hoping to do is to produce an agreement that is negotiated by both sides, not one that is forced upon either side of the dispute by anyone.

Mr. Peterson: What I am asking the minister to do is to assume her leadership role as the minister responsible in this regard, the minister responsible for education, the minister responsible for the quality of education. Obviously she and all of us have a very great stake in the outcome of this situation.

I suggest to her now that it is probably too big a situation to leave exclusively in the hands of a mediator who at this point, as she knows, has not been, shall I say, universally acclaimed.

We in our party believe it is time the minister personally broke that logjam. I ask her again, will she now assume her responsibilities and get involved, use her good offices to try to persuade the parties of the urgency of this situation and not let it just drag in the hands of others?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I hope at some point the honourable members opposite will learn that the College Relations Commission, which has responsibility for ensuring that negotiations are carried out appropriately, is made up of people who have a great deal of experience and a great deal of expertise in this area.

It is not left up to the mediator alone; a group of people is actively involved. There are people within the ministry who report to me who are providing assistance in the area of attempting, as I said yesterday, to find the appropriate foundation for a negotiated settlement, and we shall continue to do so.

Absolutely no one is shirking his or her responsibility within the Ministry of Colleges and Universities at this point, including the minister; and I hope that, as a result of the efforts that are being carried out quietly, without flamboyance and without huge publicity, we will be successful in the not too distant future.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I am sure members of the ministry are indeed not wasting any time and are doing their utmost to see that this situation is resolved, but I also understand the reluctance of the minister to involve herself, given her recent statements and contradictions on this issue having to do both with figures on the facts and with her judgement concerning whether she can guarantee anything to the students.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: None the less, I would like to ask the minister if she will not involve herself

immediately in regaining some ground for the students by immediately getting the parties together. Given the fact that she is a political person and has an appropriate understanding of the way in which bodies relate to each other in the political process, and that this is the kind of expertise she can draw on, will she not herself get the parties together immediately, before this weekend lapses, and get them down to work again?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I certainly cannot promise immediate action at the present time. There was a death in our family, and I must attend a funeral this morning.

Mr. Peterson: There is another issue at stake beside the ones we have discussed here. The obvious one is the quality of education, but there are others.

One of the problems we have discovered is that the bargaining relationship has deteriorated very substantially. I refer the minister to the words of the fact-finder in this matter describing the bargaining relationship: "It is presently characterized by aggression, conflict, antagonism, a high level of distrust, the overt use of power and influence attempts and the denial of legitimacy to the other party." Those are the words of the fact-finder.

The minister will also be aware that the fact-finder said the present bargaining structure as established by legislation is "not working effectively and requires attention again." In other words, we have to look at this from a structural point of view and the kind of relationship in which these people are bargaining.

As the minister responsible for establishing that relationship, is she now prepared and working on new alternatives to the existing structure, which is not working well on the advice of the parties, so this kind of situation will not happen again and presumably we can build a structure that will create better relationships?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: As the Minister of Labour who was responsible for the initial establishment of quality of working life in this province and as the minister responsible for the introduction of preventive mediation in this province, that is an area that is very dear to my heart and it is one in which we have attempted to provide some leadership in the whole education field.

I might tell the honourable member that it has been introduced in a number of school board-teacher negotiations with some benefit. It is a matter of concern to me that it should begin to pervade other areas of education, not just at the

college level but at the university level as well, to try to provide some reasonable alternative to that industrial attitude, which seems to be too omnipresent within employer-employee relationships in the education field.

It is a matter I would like to ensure will be changed rather dramatically in the not too distant future, but the mechanisms are there. The mechanisms have already been developed by the Education Relations Commission with the help of the Ministry of Labour of this province. The benefits so far have been excellent. There is the opportunity to introduce them further in the education field.

DEMOLITION CONTROL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General. The question relates to some buildings in his riding which I know he will be very familiar with; that is 790, 800 and 840 Eglinton Avenue West.

The Attorney General will be aware the court has made its latest ruling on the demolition permit and it appears the only thing that will save the homes of the approximately 200 people who live in those buildings from the wrecker's ball, when that permit will presumably be issued about November 1, is an amendment to the existing legislation. He will also be aware that when legislation was brought into this House, a watered-down version was finally passed here; but it is not sufficient to protect those people.

As the Attorney General and as the member responsible for those people and in whose riding they live, is he prepared to use his good offices and his considerable heft in cabinet to introduce an amendment to that legislation that would prevent this demolition from taking place?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, that legislation is not administered by the Ministry of the Attorney General, but I have been very actively involved on a number of fronts over several years now to do what I can, responsibly, to save those buildings from demolition. As the Leader of the Opposition well knows, the city of Toronto, with the appropriate minister, worked out an agreement for the legislation in respect to a limited form of demolition control.

I do not know what specific amendment the Leader of the Opposition would suggest, but certainly we on this side of the House are all concerned about issues related to demolition. That matter was addressed by the committee last spring. If the Leader of the Opposition has a specific proposal to make, I will be happy to

discuss it with the minister responsible for the legislation.

10:20 a.m.

Mr. Peterson: Our position is very clear that the legislation must be clarified. I have in my hand a copy of an amendment that would solve this problem specifically—if one of the pages will give it to the minister—and would keep those people in their homes. It would prevent those buildings from being demolished. I think it is all there. When the Attorney General applies his highly-trained legal mind to the situation, I think he will see that it would solve the problem.

Will he study that? Will he try to persuade his colleague, the minister responsible for that situation, to bring it in at the earliest possible date to keep those people in their homes?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We on this side of the House are always grateful for advice from the Leader of the Opposition and his colleagues. I am prepared to discuss with the minister responsible any rational proposals he might have.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, this is like locking the barn door after the horse has escaped, but I would like to ask the Attorney General what he is trying to tell us this morning about the position taken by the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) in committee last spring when he announced, as government policy, that the Conservative government would not accept the proposal requested by the city of Toronto for firm and effective demolition control in Bill Pr13.

Is he trying to tell us that was not the position of the government, that the cabinet had not taken that position and that he knew nothing about it? What kind of game is the Attorney General trying to play at this late date, now that the predictions that were made, not just by members of the opposition or spokespeople for the tenants but by the representatives of the development industry, have come to pass exactly as predicted?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, when it comes to playing games, nobody could excel the skills of the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan). As I recall the history of this matter, the member for Wilson Heights was actively involved in working out with the city of Toronto what appeared, at that time, to be the best compromise solution.

Mr. Peterson: The Attorney General will be aware that these buildings have swirled with controversy for a long time, involving, as he will recall, part of the brouhaha around the trust companies affair.

I want to take the Attorney General back to an affidavit that was filed in court by one Ben Axelrod a few months ago. Mr. Axelrod said in that affidavit, filed in the Supreme Court, "On the advice of one Mr. Prousky"—I am talking with respect to a mortgage on these buildings—Mr. Prousky had assured him that the \$500,000 fee would guarantee a rapid cabinet decision on these buildings, and if a decision did not come in time it would ensure that Mr. Rosenberg of Greymac Trust would assist him with secondary financing.

He said the \$500,000 fee would be used in part to retain public relations consultants to lobby cabinet members and, also, that a Mr. David Cowper had become a senior executive of Greymac Trust and that Mr. Cowper was well known in Progressive Conservative Party circles and would assist in obtaining an early decision from cabinet.

I know that as chief law officer of the crown the Attorney General would say that, *prima facie*, it was a very damaging allegation. This was brought up in the House six months or so ago. The minister was not in the House. I remember specifically asking his colleague the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) to look into this matter.

Can the Attorney General tell us now the results of his investigation into the charges laid out in that affidavit? What has become of that investigation?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I have not seen that affidavit. I will certainly be prepared to look at it. I do know from communications that Mr. Axelrod attempted to make with the member for the riding of Eglinton, the Attorney General, about these buildings that, as the Leader of the Opposition has pointed out, Mr. Axelrod has expressed very deep displeasure with the way this matter has been handled by the government.

From what we have heard, I do not think the owner of those buildings has a grievance, but Mr. Axelrod feels he has been victimized by this process. Whatever clout he may have thought he had with this government, of course, has turned out to be quite the reverse as far as he is concerned.

SPADINA EXPRESSWAY

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question and I am not quite sure to whom to put it. I will ask if the Attorney General, as one of the principal leadership contenders, would be interested in responding to the question; but if he does not choose to respond, he may want to redirect it

to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Davis), or to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow). The question concerns the fate of the three-foot strip to stop the Spadina expressway.

The Attorney General will be aware that the government announced, most recently in June 1982, that it was committed to acquiring the Spadina lands owned by Metropolitan Toronto south of Eglinton Avenue and that it would then grant, through a transfer of deed, a three-foot strip to the city of Toronto in order to secure the city in perpetuity from the extension of the Spadina expressway.

Can the Attorney General tell us whether the lands have been surveyed, whether the surveys are complete, whether the deeds have been prepared and whether the transfer of the Spadina lands from Metropolitan Toronto to the province has taken place?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I am sorry, I do not have that information, simply because, as the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) has pointed out, this matter is the responsibility of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The Premier of this province has said on a number of occasions that no expressway would be extended south of Eglinton, and I am confident that the pledge by the Premier is going to be honoured by whoever his successor might be.

Mr. McClellan: With respect, does the Attorney General not recall the qualification on the promise, that the Spadina expressway would not be extended as long as he was the Premier? Now that the Davis era is dribbling along towards its termination, perhaps the Attorney General can answer the question, or redirect it to the Deputy Premier, who I am sure would know the answer.

Have the lands been surveyed? Have the deeds been prepared? Has the land been transferred from Metropolitan Toronto to the province so that the second-stage transfer of the lands to the city of Toronto can take place?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I will just repeat what I said a moment ago. I do not know. This matter is being looked after by the Minister of Transportation and Communications, and if the member is for some reason fearful of my rather large, imposing colleague, so fearful of him that he is reluctant to pose the question to him directly, I will be his messenger. What else can I do? We will get an answer for him.

Mr. Peterson: This was promised in 1975. That is almost a decade ago now, and that promise has yet to be fulfilled. What assurances do we have that the successor to the Premier will honour his commitment any more than he honoured Mr. Robarts's commitment?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I am not aware of any commitments made by Mr. Robarts to the people of this province that were not honoured by the Premier. With the enormous respect and affection we have for our leader and Premier, I would expect, as I said a moment ago, that his commitment will indeed be honoured.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. McClellan: I would like to thank the Attorney General for offering to act as my messenger boy to the Minister of Transportation and Communications. When he is performing that function, can he tell me, either now or when the minister advises him—although I am amazed he does not know; I am flabbergasted he does not have this information—when the surveys of the Spadina line lands will be completed, when the deeds will be prepared, when the transfer will take place and, most importantly, when will we see legislation in this House that will give the city of Toronto the power and authority to own and possess the three-foot strip?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: All of these requests will be communicated to the minister responsible.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton). However, since he is not here, I will ask it of the Deputy Premier.

The Deputy Premier may or may not be aware that as of July 31, 87 per cent of the anaesthetists, 64 per cent of the obstetricians and gynaecologists, 59 per cent of the ophthalmologists, 58 per cent of the urologists, 47 per cent of the general surgeons, 40 per cent of the orthopaedic surgeons and 34 per cent of the psychiatrists in Metropolitan Toronto were opted out of the Ontario health insurance plan.

Since the number of specialists who are opted out of OHIP are the real telling factors and figures of how far behind we are in terms of universal accessibility, how can the minister guarantee universal and equal accessibility in Metropolitan Toronto, given those numbers of specialists who are opted out in this regional municipality?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member wants a full answer, he

would no doubt await the reply of the Minister of Health when he attends, either today or at the first of the week. I have listened to the minister respond, from time to time, to similar questions about the lists that are provided by the Ontario Medical Association with respect to those who are part of the plan.

I think it is unfortunate to leave the assumption that because one is opted out, he necessarily overbills. That does not necessarily follow. It depends on the particular circumstance.

However, the question of accessibility is a reasonable one and I will draw the minister's attention to the member's concern at my first opportunity.

Mr. Cooke: The implication of what the Deputy Premier said is that the only way opted-out doctors do not extra-bill is when patients go to them and beg for charity medicine. I would like to ask the Deputy Premier a policy question. Does he support the concept that when a patient goes to a doctor who is extra billing, he or she should have to beg for charity medicine in order to achieve equal and universal accessibility in Ontario?

The statistics prove that extra billing and opting out are problems not just confined to Toronto. In Middlesex county, 96 per cent of the anaesthetists are opted out, 66 per cent of the urologists, 64 per cent of the orthopaedic surgeons and 60 per cent of the plastic surgeons. The statistics are the same across this province.

What is the Deputy Premier prepared to do to guarantee universal accessibility? Why does he defend doctors who make \$120,000 a year, rather than defending the people on middle and low incomes who are forced to pay \$50 million in extra bills in this province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I will simply underline the main point in my response in indicating the minister will perhaps give a fuller answer. I do not know that it necessarily follows that it is to be seen in the concept of begging for charity when members of the medical profession make some assessment with respect to extra billing or not. It is a personal relationship between a medical practitioner and his patient, taking into account the circumstances. There may be other reasons which motivate someone from being involved in the plan and reserving the right to make that determination.

That aside, I listened to the minister respond to questions from the member's leader at the beginning of this week on this whole question of accessibility and extra billing. I would draw the member's attention to that answer, to which I

recall he had some supplementary questions at the earlier part of the week.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the Deputy Premier will be aware that during the past week the Minister of Health has speculated in the media that the present position of the government of Ontario may change with respect to extra billing. Can the Deputy Premier indicate to us if this is the position solely of the Minister of Health, or is it the position of the government, given the fact that it does represent a major policy shift? Could he also tell us when such a change in policy might be implemented?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I recall that question being posed to the minister at the beginning of the week. I think if the member were to read Hansard, he would find the minister indicated in response to the question that this was one of many options being explored. He did not come down with respect to any particular solution. He simply indicated there were a number of options and they were all being considered and studied by him.

Mr. Cooke: Since the Canada Health Act was passed with the support of all three political parties in the House of Commons, and since all three political parties at the federal level see extra billing as incompatible with the basic principles of medicare, why does the Minister of Health not do as the provincial Liberal Party did and change his position on extra billing, decide to oppose it and get rid of it in this province and restore equal accessibility to our health care system?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I repeat that the minister gave a very full answer with respect to the process at present being undertaken. I thought it was a very complete answer on that whole question. To save some time for other questions, I would simply ask the member to reread the very complete answer given on this subject by the Minister of Health at the beginning of the week.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a question—

Mr. Speaker: Before you proceed, if I may interrupt, there seems to be a very high level of conversation and I am having difficulty hearing the questions. I would ask the co-operation—

Mr. Stokes: It is just the noise that is at a high level.

Mr. Speaker: I did not ask for further comment. I asked for co-operation. The member for London North.

HIGHWAY SIGNS

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, this is a question for the Minister of Tourism and

Recreation. I am sure the minister is aware that for some years now tourist operators and municipalities have been unhappy with the restrictive highway signage policy of the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

Does the minister not agree that the tourism advertising potential of highway signs is not recognized and that the government should develop a uniform policy in co-operation with operators in communities in regard to signs that would advertise their legitimate attractions? I would like to know whether the minister agrees with that statement.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member will realize that question should be more properly directed to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow).

As far as the tourism industry is concerned, it is true we do hear from time to time proposals that there should be more signs on highways, particularly the 400 series of highways. We feel, with the information offices and all the other advertising we do for the tourist attractions, the travelling public's needs are generally fairly well met.

As the member may know, in recent years there has been some trend towards more signs at more strategic places. If the member wants to have further information on this, he might direct his question to the Minister of Transportation and Communications when he returns to the House.

Mr. Van Horne: The question is being directed to the Minister of Tourism and Recreation because of his direct involvement with tourism.

Some communities, such as mine of London, Ontario, are under the impression that cabinet has authorized the posting of signs along Highway 401 and Highway 400 rights of way at the approaches to Toronto, advertising the major tourist attractions in Metropolitan Toronto. London city council has responded to this by requesting that similar signs be erected along Highway 401 at the entrances to London.

10:40 a.m.

Will the minister support London's request? If not, can he explain how he can endorse a government policy that favours Toronto over the rest of the province?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: This is a subject that is currently under discussion, and I do not want to report anything further in any great detail at this time. I want to reassure the member that we will be taking a look at this whole question. I am quite

aware of the signs he is talking about at the entrances to Toronto.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, what kind of liaison goes on among the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation with regard to an overall advertising policy?

During the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs earlier this week, I asked whether it was possible for the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) to co-ordinate an overall policy of advertising for tourism, given the fact that we have one of the most important and most attractive tourist facilities, Lake Nipigon, and there is not one sign that actually points to it. If one travels along Highway 11, one knows the residents think they are second-class citizens inasmuch as most of the advertising dollars from the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation highlight all the attractions along Highway 17 rather than Highway 11.

What kind of liaison goes on among Transportation and Communications, Natural Resources and Tourism and Recreation in determining where the advertising dollars for tourism are going to be spent?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, there is constant liaison going on among my ministry, the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and the Ministry of Natural Resources.

Obviously signs on the highways are a very small part of tourism advertising. The advertising is directed more through the medium of television, pamphlets, information centres and so on. It is also directed through our local tourist associations. We rely on them. We help finance these tourist associations to do their own advertising in their own particular areas.

It should be said again that this whole issue of signage on highways is one that is under constant study and review.

MINISTRY OFFICE IN WELLAND

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of the Environment, if I can have his attention. Will he tell this House whether it is true that he plans to move the Ministry of the Environment office out of the city of Welland and, if so, why?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I know of no such plans at the moment. I will check with my staff to see if there have been any discussions along those lines. Any input from the honourable member, either in favour or opposed to the proposal he is suggesting may be before my

ministry, would be welcome. I have not been personally involved in any discussions or any plans to move the offices out of Welland.

Mr. Swart: The employees there have been told there is going to be a move to St. Catharines. When the minister looks into this, will he give consideration to the fact that the city of Welland—in fact, the whole southern Niagara Peninsula—now has one of the highest unemployment rates of any place in Ontario? Local studies indicate about 25 per cent of the work force is unemployed.

Will the minister also consider the fact that the 12 or so employees employed there have established themselves in the city of Welland or the immediate vicinity? It will be a hardship and costly to them if a move is made out of the city of Welland. I hope the minister will report back with the commitment that office will not be moved.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I cannot give an undertaking that the office will not be moved. As I indicated, there are, on occasion, administrative moves made within a ministry that are not necessarily brought to the attention of the minister directly.

I will, however, look into this matter. I am sure the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) also has an interest in the unemployment rate he is experiencing in his community. As the member can well appreciate, these things have to be balanced off in the best interests not only of the province and the citizens we serve, but also of providing services on behalf of the ministry in an appropriate and realistic fashion.

We will look at all of that in coming to an appropriate decision, and I will get back to the honourable member with respect to the up-to-date status of the matter.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I do not have a supplementary on this. I was going to have a supplementary until I heard where he was moving it. I do not have a supplementary; I have a new question.

Mr. Elston: Might I ask a supplementary?

Mr. Bradley: Do not move it from St. Catharines.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a supplementary for the Minister of the Environment. Since we are going through Environment estimates at this time and since we have had a long discussion of the overall reduction in absolute dollars being applied to that ministry's budget, can the minister undertake for us, when he is conducting his review of this administrative

move, which may or may not have been brought to his attention by his staff—he has told us before he is really just the messenger for the ministry and not the policy-maker there anyway—that he will not allow the overall commitment to environmental programs in his ministry's budget to be reduced by allowing the levying of increased costs to house this move or eat up extra administrative dollars when we need as many dollars as possible in the Ministry of Environment to deal with the very serious problems in the Niagara area and in other places?

Mr. Sweeney: A prime ministerial answer, please.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I will do my best.

I appreciate the question raised by the honourable member, but I want to assure him that we are not making these kinds of administrative moves in the global sense with the intent of increasing the cost or expense to the ministry. I do not know where that suggestion would come from.

During the course of the estimates we have had extensive debates on the spending of this ministry. I do not believe there is any indication whatever that the overhead of this ministry is increasing at a rate that is even comparable to the rate of inflation.

We have been extremely restraint-minded; I want to assure members of that. We have contained our budget in a manner that I think would be appropriate in the eyes of all members of the opposition, if they could ever understand the budget. The difficulty is that we cannot get these people to sit down and study these documents with sufficient interest to get them to come to an appreciation of the numbers we provide them with. But there is no intention of increasing administrative costs, if that was the question.

CO-OPERATIVE EDUCATION

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. I noticed this morning a headline in a paper saying, "Teach on the Job, Davis Asks Execs." It is related to co-operative education programs for adults, and this is put on at the secondary school level.

As the minister is aware, a number of boards of education in Ontario, including the Lincoln county board, have developed excellent co-operative education programs at the secondary school level even though her ministry does not provide sufficient funding for transportation or monitoring of these programs.

Will the minister give an assurance to the House today that she will intervene with the

federal authorities—I have been waiting a long time for this—with her federal friends in Ottawa, to ensure that the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission does not scuttle an excellent program by prohibiting individuals—we are talking about adults now—from participating in a program such as the acquiring of stenographer's skills at the St. Catharines Collegiate Institute and Vocational School and in other places that might have a similar program by denying unemployment insurance benefits to those who participate in these programs because they happen to be attending school part of the day?

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I believe there is little chance of the scuttling of the program since I think it was only within the last two days that I noticed in one of the education publications an advertisement by the federal government supporting the use of the unemployment insurance program for skills development through co-operative education programs and encouraging boards of education and colleges to apply for information regarding the ways in which they could facilitate such programs; so I really doubt that the concern expressed by the honourable member has much foundation in fact, right at the moment.

It is a matter we had encouraged the former government to become involved in, and I am delighted that the program was first developed and is now going to be carried on. I think it is not limited specifically to school boards but is available to educational institutions approved by ministries of education or ministries of colleges and universities in various provinces.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, the minister would know that one of the problems is at the secondary school level as opposed to the community college level. When community colleges have carried out programs of this kind, there has not been a problem with unemployment insurance benefits. However, when boards of education at the secondary school level have attempted to deal with adult co-operative education programs, that is where the blocks have been put in.

Is the minister saying today that she is now assured—and this would be excellent news for all of us—that the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission has changed its mind and, as of this week, is now prepared to allow those on unemployment insurance to take part in programs such as that at the St. Catharines collegiate?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I do not have that assurance on paper at the present time. What I said was that it is only within the last two days that there was information from CEIC, in an education publication, suggesting strongly that school boards were eligible to participate in this program. I doubt that it would have been in that publication if the position of CEIC were not that they were to be members of the group providing the education program.

I think the honourable member may be aware that there was some difficulty in the beginning with the support of programs related to the development of the basic skills required to begin the process of skills development. There was concern on the part of CEIC for support of that portion which would lead the individual to the basic skill level to be able to be involved in the co-operative education program. Therein, I think, lay the problem that had to be sorted out.

DISEASE RATES AND ENVIRONMENT

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. Is the minister aware of the recent survey undertaken by the health protection branch of the Department of National Health and Welfare, which found that Hamilton and region cancer-related death rates from 1971 to 1981 were considerably above the provincial average?

It found in particular that the rate for stomach cancer in males in Hamilton-Wentworth was 30 per cent higher than expected, the rate for lung cancer was 20 per cent higher, the rate for breast cancer in females was 11.5 per cent higher and the rate for bladder cancer was almost 11 per cent higher than the average for the province.

The minister will be aware that certain of these cancer-related deaths may be related to the presence of chlorine in the water, but there is also other evidence in this study to suggest that it is a broadly environmental problem.

I wonder if the minister would tell us, first, whether he is aware of these statistics and, second, whether his ministry has related specifically to studies concerning them, their causes and, we hope, their cure.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I suggest that any relationship between chlorine in water and cancer is very tenuous at best. I do not know of any studies that would link chlorination or chlorine treatment of water with cancer. It is a substance that has been used in a chemical sense to purify water for many years. The member should take a look at those facts again before he suggests there may be a problem in that respect.

The second part of the question, however, concerning the other matter of an epidemiological study to determine exactly what the problems are in connection with the elevated levels of cancer that he is suggesting are part of the problem in the Hamilton area, would be better put to the Minister of Health.

In fact, we do work co-operatively with the Ministry of Health in undertakings of this type. But as was the case in the Niagara area—and I am sure the members from that area are aware of this—the study that is being undertaken there, at a cost to the province of some quarter of a million dollars, is headed by that ministry. We will work with the ministry to undertake any environmental control programs following the findings and the completion of that particular study, but the study is being undertaken by my colleague the Minister of Health.

Mr. Allen: It is always difficult to ask a question of a minister who is not here and, of course, the Friday morning absences are no help in that respect. But may I call the attention of this minister to the fact that a few years ago a similar study was undertaken in Hamilton to get to the bottom of this and related questions and that study ran out of resources before completing its task. Therefore, I would like the minister to say, in general terms, that he is prepared to co-operate with the ministry in getting to the bottom of these distressing statistics.

Will he enjoin real resources from his ministry in hard dollars to studies which are being undertaken presently by local health officials and McMaster epidemiological experts in order to see that this matter is studied satisfactorily and completely, and is resolved to the best of our scientific knowledge, in this current study? Hamilton residents want to get to the bottom of this issue; find out what the causes are and have them remedied.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: The figures with respect to the Hamilton situation are not quite as extreme as the honourable member would suggest. There is cause for concern but not cause for alarm.

I will bring the concerns of the member and the constituents he serves in Hamilton to the attention of my colleague, and we will look at the matter. I do not want to undertake to commit my colleague the Minister of Health on any future studies he may or may not wish to undertake in that particular area.

I do want to say, and the member is aware of this, that we have expended large sums of money in the Hamilton area with respect to environmental control programs. I announced a series of

grants within the last six or seven months in regard to certain specific cleanup programs that exceeded \$500,000. We are continuing to work with the regional municipality in that area, with the local health councils and in co-operation with the Ministry of Health to do whatever we can to make sure that the health of the residents of that area is completely safe and secure in every respect. We will continue to do that.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, last night during his estimates, the minister indicated there are several large-scale projects which are drawing to a close in this budget. Can the minister advise this House that in cases such as that outlined by my friend the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen) he will try to salvage some of the money that will now not be required for those megaprojects that have been undertaken by his ministry and apply it to developing a series or a strategy to deal with the very questions which are raised by these types of federal studies and the results which they unveil, rather than waiting for the intervention of the Minister of Health whose budget we know is certainly under a great deal of stress?

Can the minister undertake that he will co-operatively help fund some of these programs and studies, as he has done with some of the other ministries such as the Ministry of Agriculture and Food in dealing with agricultural runoff?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is quite accurate and correct in suggesting that there have been shifts in priorities in my budget which we talked about during estimates just the other evening. Some of the large investments and expenditures for provincial projects are not as intense or quite as demanding as was the case previously.

The member then asks whether there can be some shift of priorities to determine where those moneys might be expended in other areas of environmental control. I want to suggest I am not at all opposed to that kind of thing. However, the reality is that we have to know where we can spend those dollars to get the maximum benefit for the taxpayers of Ontario. That may be one opinion, but there are a whole host of priorities out there and we have to look at all of them.

The reality is that we have increased very substantially the program areas of my ministry, and over the past three or four years we have increased by some 40 per cent expenditures for specific programs that are not all that different from the one the member mentioned in his request. We will certainly look at it. We are very pragmatic, open-minded and realistic on this side of the House. We will look at any recommenda-

tions or suggestions the member might want to bring forward.

VISITOR

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the presence of a very distinguished visitor, a former Minister of Housing and a former Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations, Sidney Handleman.

Mr. Epp: That is a good warmup for my question.

11 a.m.

MARKET VALUE ASSESSMENT

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Revenue. The minister is aware that my task force on property tax assessment travelled to Sault Ste. Marie last week. The minister is also aware that in making assessments, assessors are not supposed to take into consideration the potential wealth of a property. The local commissioner of assessment in Sault Ste. Marie has confirmed that matter. Why is it then that in assessing the property of Howard Avery's gravel pit, the assessor assessed it on the potential wealth of the gravel pit rather than on the regulations in the manual?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that the task force in its travels and with the many meetings it has had, extensive as they were, has come up with a problem, because it had been singularly unsuccessful up to this point. Obviously, I cannot answer a question about a specific property, but if the honourable member wishes to submit the information he has to me, I will have my staff investigate it and get back to him.

Mr. Epp: That remark is unworthy of the minister, because several months ago 4,000 people in Sault Ste. Marie protested against their assessments. The suggestion that there are no problems in Sault Ste. Marie or any other place in the province because of his incompetence is misinformation for this House and for the people of Ontario.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Epp: Given that the local assessor has indicated it was based on a particular tonnage and given that the assessment commissioner has said this should not be the case, why is it that the commissioner appointed by the ministry says one thing to the people of Sault Ste. Marie and the assessor, appearing before the official court of appeal, says another thing?

Why are the people so misled by this kind of information? Is there not enough bureaucracy already in the ministry? They now have to try to overcome this misinformation being given out by the ministry people.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: It is quite possible to understand the frustration of the member. As I said before, his task force has been unable to find many faults.

Mr. Epp: There are 4,000 people in Sault Ste. Marie who disagree.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: I understand. Perhaps I can quote from a Mr. Michael Brooks, a spokesman in the Liberal head office. He said, "What they found is that people in some communities have called for the implementation of market value assessment and others have urged its abolition." He went on to say, "It is overwhelming to me that we have to write a report." I can understand his frustration, because it is being found that some like it and some do not. It took them a long time to find that out, and they have done extensive travel. I will look into the specific issue the member has in mind and get back to him.

ONTARIO ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MULTICULTURALISM AND CITIZENSHIP

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Citizenship and Culture regarding the extension for another five-year period of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship.

Given the total and complete ineffectiveness of the advisory council in the past 10 years with respect to its performance and its ability to persuade the government to accept any serious recommendation the council has produced, given that the council does not enjoy the support of the major ethnic communities in Ontario, and given that the council seems to be dormant and is activated only during provincial elections, can the minister tell us why the mandate of this council was extended for a further five years, thereby wasting a lot of taxpayers' money?

Hon. Ms. Fish: Mr. Speaker, I could not disagree more with the series of so-called "givens" that prefaced that question. In my view, and in the experience I have had in dealing with representatives of a variety of cultures and groups around this province, that council is held in very high esteem and has the confidence of many quarters of this province.

The council has served for 10 years, providing key advice in a number of areas, from assistance in refugee settlement to English as a second

language training, orientation, work place adjustment, counselling for family violence and abuse and to assistance in breaking down some of the barriers that are so easy to develop built upon some ignorance of cultural background that also may overlap a racial or religious difference.

The council has been extended precisely because of its valuable work in reaching out to communities across this province and precisely because it has made it its business to work closely with other advisory bodies to the government dealing with questions of the status of women, for example, and with particular questions of youth and seniors.

The review indicated a clear need that the society we have has made some great strides in tolerance, understanding and compassion but has more work to do. I am very proud to have a group of more than 60 people providing advice to this government through me on the key matters of how our society can better develop and understand and open even more doors for the participation of all groups in this society.

Mr. Grande: Does the minister not realize that many of the items she mentioned as being part of the work of the Ontario Advisory Council on Multiculturalism and Citizenship have absolutely nothing to do with the mandate of the council? If the minister goes back to 1973, when the council was established, and reads the mandate, she will see that a good number of the items she mentioned have nothing to do with its mandate.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Grande: The convener of the education and youth concerns committee of that council states: The Ministry of Education has had seven important recommendations before it and, of the seven, one was looked at. It asks the Ministry of Education to consider the other recommendations. In other words, the government is doing nothing.

Julius Hayman, one of the distinguished council members, says in the July issue of *Multiviews*: "The government has allowed the council for the second time in its history to become dormant."

Mr. Speaker: Question.

Mr. Grande: Will the minister either look at and strengthen the mandate of the council or else scrap it completely?

Hon. Ms. Fish: I say again that I support the advice of that council on matters relating to immigration, refugee settlement, development and education—which indeed it provides—social

integration, the breaking down of intolerance, racial problems and opportunities for youth. Those are the things that are the mandate of that council.

If the honourable member thinks that is not the advice this government should be receiving, then I say he is in the wrong age. That is the advice this government should receive, as it does, from more than 60 people representing that number of communities around this province.

PETITION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the member for Dufferin-Simcoe (Mr. McCague), I would like to table the following petition to the Legislature:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned electors of the Honourable George McCague, Chairman of Management Board, appeal to the Legislature to provide form and substance in law for the basic human right of parents in Ontario to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their children.

"The present education policy provides no guarantees for the existence of independent schools that are one of the concrete expressions of this basic parental right.

"Furthermore, in a democratic and multi-cultural society parents should have the right to send their children to the schools of their choice without a financial penalty.

"We ask your help in reducing the unfair burden of what, in effect, is double taxation. We seek a just public education policy that supports all schools deemed to be operating in the public interest."

11:10 a.m.

MOTION

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that in the standing committee on social development, the time allocation for the estimates of the Ministry of Health be reduced to 12 hours, the Ministry of Community and Social Services be reduced to 11 hours and the estimates of the Ministry of Community and Social Services be taken up after completion of all other estimates referred to the committee.

Motion agreed to.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS (continued)

On vote 801, item 1, main office:

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, I am glad you are able to join us.

The Deputy Chairman: I am glad I am able to join the honourable member.

Mr. Stokes: I think the minister thought he had completed answering a lot of the questions we raised during our leadoff remarks. Just in case he has been further briefed on the questions brought to his attention by both the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) and myself, I do not think he was finished.

The minister did not give a proper explanation of where his ministry stands on a very important issue. I refer to the crucial issue of tax sharing between the provincial government, the school board and the dormitory communities surrounding the development of the gold ore body at Hemlo. I know the minister met yesterday morning with a delegation from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association. I was not invited to that presentation, but I know it took place.

I know the minister said the situation was well in hand. He said that in very short order they would be coming up with a response to a resolution passed by the Lake Superior Board of Education. The resolution asked that they be given a mandate to extend the boundaries of that board so they could take advantage of the additional tax base at Hemlo and Winston Lake.

I am sure the minister would like to share with this committee and members of the House what he told that delegation from the Northwestern Ontario Municipal Association during its meeting with a committee of cabinet yesterday morning.

I also want to ask the minister where he stands on another point. I raised it during my leadoff remarks, and I suppose he inadvertently neglected to mention what part the Ministry of Northern Affairs is going to play in assisting and encouraging the building and completion of the Thunder Bay auditorium.

The minister did not mention that in his response to our leadoff questions, but he is well aware of what is going on. It is probably the only cultural endeavour anywhere in the history of Ontario or of any other jurisdiction that has been submitted to an environmental assessment. The minister will know his parliamentary assistant played a very active role in trying to block that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) would not do that.

Mr. Stokes: I would have hoped he would not have, but the evidence is there that he certainly did not endorse it with a great deal of enthusiasm.

The minister, being the minister of everything in northern Ontario, knows the importance of the completion of that project, which has the accord of any thinking person in northern Ontario. It will be in the city of Thunder Bay, it is being built at considerable expense and it will have a very profound influence on the artistic and cultural life of everybody in northern Ontario. As I mentioned in my leadoff remarks, Dr. Charles Johnston is heading up the fund-raising drive. I know he has done an excellent job. Even in times of recession, when dollars are hard to come by, he is doing an admirable job, along with members of his committee.

One would have thought that this would be something the Minister of Northern Affairs could support very enthusiastically and give some tangible evidence by way of a substantial contribution to indicate that he does feel it is something worthwhile and something to which we should all lend our support. I hope the minister will take advantage of this opportunity to tell us where he stands. I know he is in favour of it—he could not be otherwise—but we would like a little bit more tangible evidence.

As I said earlier, I promised Charles Johnston I would bring it to the minister's attention at the earliest possible moment. I did so on Monday. The minister may have been looking to see whether there would be a ready source of funds he could tap in order that he could make a commitment and maybe even an announcement today. Perhaps Neil Stuart, under the gallery, could get on the horn and tell Charles Johnston that the democratic process here is alive and well and that this minister is interested in supporting worthwhile projects in Thunder Bay.

There are a number of other things I want to bring to the attention of the minister, but lest he thought he had completed his response to our leadoff remarks and questions, I want to disabuse him of that idea. Perhaps he could shed a little light on those two topics at this time.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, before I respond to the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes), I want to put on the record my feelings with respect to our colleague the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid). I said to the media this morning, and I think I should repeat it here, that the honourable member was a contributor to the examination of the estimates of the Ministry

of Northern Affairs over the years; there is no question about that. He was a tough critic, but I think he was very positive and supportive of all the various programs, proposals and efforts of the ministry over the past seven years.

It was with regret that I read and heard on television last night that he would not be sitting in this Legislature again because of the way he was treated by his party, which disturbs me.

11:20 a.m.

Mr. Stokes: The minister does not let anything disturb him.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It does. I think the member for Rainy River made a contribution. I think we should recognize that. I thought he would be here for the last two weeks to add a little spark and flavour and to contribute, but he will not be with us.

Mr. Stokes: He would not do it from the back row.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I know he would not do it from the back row. That is why he is not going to be here. It should be recognized that he will not be contributing to these estimates. I regret that sincerely.

With respect to the meeting we had with the Northern Ontario Municipal Association yesterday in the Resources Development policy field, it has been our custom to invite the opposition. I cannot understand what happened, or why the member for Lake Nipigon was not there. He has been there for the last five or seven years. I can assure the member it was just an oversight that he was not there.

Mr. Stokes: I was the most surprised guy in this Legislature when I saw Bob Myers and Neil McCaudrum sitting under the Speaker's gallery. I went over to say: "Welcome to Queen's Park. What are you doing here?" They said, "We met with a committee of cabinet with our NOMA brief."

As a matter of fact Ray Mercier, who is the deputy reeve of Nakina, was here this morning. Had they not taken the time to come and watch our proceedings, I would not have known the event had taken place.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I certainly apologize for that. I can assure the member it will not happen next year, if I am still around and if the member is still around.

Mr. Stokes: Thanks for nothing.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will make sure his successor is there, because he will likely be sitting on this side of the House. I know who it

will be, a fellow by the name of Jim Files. That is the name I have heard much of there.

It was an oversight and I apologize for it. It was a healthy discussion, a good two hours. It went on so long that some of the ministers had to leave in advance of the meeting terminating. It was the largest delegation NOMA has ever sent down to Queen's Park—31 in total.

The whole of northwestern Ontario was represented. The reeve of Terrace Bay was the only one from the Hemlo area, which surprised me. I thought the Reeves from Manitouwadge, White River and Marathon would have been there because of the problems and the boom going on in that area, and the answers that they might want to obtain.

Mr. Stokes: I am sure he acquitted himself with distinction.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He did. He asked a question about the boundaries, as to when they could see some approval. I pointed out to him that I had been in discussion with the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson). She told me it would be approved within the next short period; that was her response. He was most pleased to hear that positive response to take back to Terrace Bay.

As to the question of the auditorium, I think the member is aware of my strong support for that cultural centre. I have always been in favour of it. There is no question about it. I believe northwestern Ontario needs something that will add to the quality of life not only in Thunder Bay but in all of northwestern Ontario.

Toronto has the O'Keefe Centre and Roy Thomson Hall. We should not be shortchanged in any way by not having an auditorium of that stature and magnitude. It would attract world—the member looking for money?

Mr. Stokes: Let us see the colour of your money.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I understand another request is coming down from the committee. We have indicated to them that, while the previous requests were not responded to in a positive way, which they expected, we would not close the door and would look at the request coming down. I cannot give you any guarantee that we will answer their call for additional funds, but if there is something that has a unique, northern Ontario—

Mr. Stokes: What does the minister mean by "additional funds"? The government has not given us anything yet.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, we have. There is about \$4 million or \$5 million of provincial money.

Mr. Stokes: Where? There is not a penny from the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Not from my ministry but from the government—the government has been up front—\$4 million or \$5 million has gone into that.

Mr. Stokes: I am talking about a commitment from the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I know. I am talking about the overall contribution from the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: A dollar is a dollar is a dollar.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It comes from the same place. It was very substantial; in fact, it made it happen. If it had not been for the particularly large grant that was announced by the former minister, the auditorium would not have been down the road as it is today.

Nevertheless, it is there and I told them we would review carefully their latest request. If there is something there that has a unique northern Ontario problem attached to it, then it may well qualify for something we could address. I will certainly leave that door open; I will not close it.

Mr. Stokes: You have a reason. Now you want an excuse.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I need something substantive. Really, I do.

The member for London North asked me for a list of the communities that will be participating in the health recruitment tour next week and of the universities that will be visited. I would like to put those on the record right now so the municipalities can be recognized.

The following communities are participating in the tour: Atikokan, Chapleau, Dryden, Ear Falls, Fort Frances, Geraldton, Hearst, Hornepayne, Ignace, Iroquois Falls, Kapuskasing, Keewatin, Larder Lake, Manitouwadge, Marathon, Mattawa, Moosonee, Mount Forest, North Bay, Red Lake, Sault Ste. Marie, Schreiber, Shelburne, Sioux Lookout, Smooth Rock Falls, Temagami, Terrace Bay, Timmins, Vermilion Bay and White River.

Mr. Stokes: That just demonstrates the need, eh?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It certainly does.

They will be visiting the University of Ottawa on October 22, Queen's University in Kingston on October 23, the University of Western Ontario on October 24, McMaster University in Hamilton on October 25, and the University of Toronto on October 26.

Members will see from this that it is a well-accepted program. The financial assistance we are able to provide makes it all happen, because we do assist them with their travel and with their accommodation when they get here. We have even assisted them in the last year or two with setting up their various displays.

I extend a very warm invitation to the members opposite to visit the group when it is here in Toronto on October 26, if they are around, or if they are in Hamilton on October 25, because it is well worth while to see these communities competing, and we are working very closely with the graduates of the medical campuses.

The member also inquired about the number of local services boards. I have that here and I can just pass it on to him. It is information on the opportunities in the service areas. This is the whole list. I will just pass the whole package over to the member.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Chairman, quiet the noise out there.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What is going on outside?

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Mancini): I think they are protesting against the policies of the incumbent government, but I am not sure.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Not likely.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They are down there applauding various programs of this government, I am sure, the great things we are doing.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: They are going to be there a long time. They may still be here next week if they are applauding all our accomplishments.

The Acting Chairman: Why did you want them quieted down, if that is the case?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Both members spent considerable time discussing alternative energy issues and uses in northern Ontario, and I have had my staff prepare a very lengthy report. I would like to put the whole report on the record because it is very informative and certainly lays out all the issues the members have touched on during their opening remarks. If members will bear with me, it is about 12 pages long, but I think they will find it very valuable.

Mr. Stokes: Are there copies of it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I do not have copies; I am sorry. It is too bad. Can we get copies?

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Read it first, or they will not listen.

11:30 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We are getting copies made for the members. Anyway, I can start.

The Ontario government has been working hard to develop ways of delivering energy service to remote northern communities.

Gasifier systems: both my ministry and the Ministry of Energy are very active in the gasification of peat as a replacement for fuel oil. The Ontario government is working on two systems: one, a full community-scale gasifier, and the other, a small commercial scale gasifier. The former, designed and manufactured by Petrosun, is a 350-kilowatt unit and utilizes wood or peat. The system has been built and will be tested and monitored over the coming winter. Once testing is completed, it will be operated in a remote community, one that is yet to be determined.

The other unit is a small, 20-kilowatt gasifier that utilizes wood or peat to drive the peat briquetting machine, water pump, etc. The project cost is \$150,000.

Mr. Stokes: That is not what the minister said on Monday. He said the economics were not there and it was not viable. Now he is telling us he is going to set up a demonstration model.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: These are only pilot projects. There is no economics on a large scale, but we are trying this as a pilot project just to see if it can be applied.

The data base studies have identified a large business potential in remote northern Ontario communities. About 80 per cent of 43 such communities surveyed have sufficient wood or peat resources to support biomass-fired electric generating systems. For example, in Cat Lake, peat reserves have been estimated at 1.5 million to two million tonnes within 10 kilometres of the community. The harvest system would cost about \$1 million and operating costs about \$100,000 a year. If developed fully, the estimated annual income to the community could be approximately \$500,000 a year by the year 1990.

The member mentioned my trip to Italy. One of the outcomes of that trip is that we are now preparing two demonstrations. One is the small, commercial-scale gasifier just mentioned, and the other is a Totem engine to provide power and heat to a remote tourist lodge. That one I was not aware of, I have to admit.

The Acting Chairman: How did the minister enjoy the pasta when he was in Italy?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The pasta was absolutely great. The wine was even better. We were in the Friuli area.

We are currently negotiating with a lodge owner in the northwest region who will provide a site and auxiliary facilities. The Totem engine

will produce electricity and space heating at up to 90 per cent efficiency. It is proposed to operate on propane. Project cost is budgeted at \$100,000.

In both cases, the ministry is providing the machinery and consulting services during the operation phase in exchange for the operator providing detailed reports on the economics of the system in actual use, so the economics have not been proven yet.

On the subject of wind diesel, the member for Lake Nipigon makes a pessimistic statement that we are no closer to the day. This is certainly not the case. The government will be installing a wind diesel system in Fort Severn this coming summer. It is news to me and I am sure to the member. It is very interesting. It is timed to coincide with Ontario Hydro's delivery of power to the community.

A little history may be in order. In March 1983, Ontario Hydro completed a study of the feasibility of utilizing wind diesel in selected Ontario remote communities. From a 16-community study, four were identified as holding the highest potential for a prototype demonstration and subsequent installation: Fort Severn, Fort Albany, Winisk and Attawapiskat, all of which are under federal jurisdiction. Fort Severn emerged as the best location. I think the member for Lake Nipigon mentioned that.

Mr. Stokes: They have been working on that for 10 years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member finally struck a sensitive chord.

The Fort Severn installation is timed to coincide with Ontario Hydro's delivery of community electrification to that settlement. The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development is funding the diesel installation. The National Research Council, Energy, Mines and Resources, the Ministry of Energy and Ontario Hydro are all contributing to the wind component of the project. Equipment will be moved to Fort Severn this coming spring, with startup expected by August. It is great news. I knew the member would like it. I am pleased with it myself.

I have a few words by way of explanation on the announcement last week of the opening of the Heat Save North project in New Liskeard, the one that my parliamentary assistant was supposed to kick off and did not make it because of the fog, but the member for Timiskaming (Mr. Havrot) was there and he did the honours and did a great job for us.

Last year, the Ministry of Northern Affairs funded community-wide energy conservation projects in Chapleau and Geraldton. The participation rates in this Heat Save program were high, over 40 per cent in one community and over 50 per cent in the second. The annual energy savings resulting from these projects amount to about \$6 for every dollar spent by government. As a result of this, we are now engaged with the Ministry of Energy in providing an expansion of the energy conservation health and advice program in a new Heat Save North program.

Following the New Liskeard clinic, we plan this winter to take the program to Haileybury, Cobalt and Latchford, Charlton, Englehart, Temagami, Fort Frances and Rainy River.

The member may also be interested to learn what we have been doing to assist northern residents to reduce their high household energy costs. The Ministry of Energy has all but completed a demonstration project in the Armstrong area to produce new house design plus refits on four more. Ten new houses are being completed in Armstrong by the local school board. Retrofits and renovations are complete with excellent results. The new houses use 80 per cent less energy than conventional designs, and results are to be published at the end of the monitoring period. Similar results were achieved as a result of new design in a housing construction program in the Windigo area.

The government is also active in providing energy conservation and oil substitution technologies in the institutional buildings field, including studies of waste heat recovery from diesel generator sets at Big Trout Lake, Sandy Lake and Attawapiskat hospital, where recovery resulted in a 50 per cent reduction in fuel oil use. In Armstrong, energy conservation retrofits have been done on the Ministry of Natural Resources headquarters building, as well as several other nonresidential buildings.

In Attawapiskat, Ontario Hydro has applied microprocessors to control the power output of diesel generator sets according to fluctuations in the level of electrical demand. A major off-oil initiative in northern Ontario is the extension of a national gas pipeline grid. Several studies have now been completed that are aimed at substantiating claims for federal assistance for pipeline construction under the distribution system expansion program.

DSEP support has been obtained for Elliot Lake, as was announced during the federal election campaign. Hemlo, on the north shore of Lake Superior, is currently in negotiations with

Northern and Central Gas and the area municipalities. Red Lake and the Balmertown area are considered to have potential, whereas studies of the Parry Sound extension did not prove viable.

The member for Lake Nipigon will be interested to learn we have been experimenting with a new diesel design which promises substantial fuel savings. The Ministry of Energy has funded a Mechtron-built, cycle-charge 2000 system designed to save 70 per cent of the fuel at the Telecom sites. The system has been built and tested and is now being installed at a Bell Canada site north of Sudbury.

This revolutionary system may also be used to save fuel in community electrification systems. The Ministry of Transportation and Communications, Bell Canada and Ontario Hydro are all interested in using the technology. A community-size system under 100 kilowatts is also being designed and evaluated under a Natural Research Council contract.

In the area of small hydro, we have been extremely active. Over the past year, the Ontario government has assisted in the installation of a system at a remote tourist lodge to show the benefit of small hydro to commercial enterprise in the north. We have also installed a system at Quetico Provincial Park to serve two Ministry of Natural Resources cabins and a Canada Customs office. This installation is a prototype remote design that is unique and takes northern engineering problems into account.

The Ministry of Energy has provided support for the Sault Ste. Marie Kinsmen Club for a 200-kilowatt, small hydro project at Kinsmen Park Falls as part of a seven-site federal-provincial small hydro demonstration program.

I have a list of the activities I have just announced. Maybe I should put them on the record. I will not repeat this, which is just a summary, but I will be glad to pass on copies to the members.

Mr. Stokes: I have it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member has it. Fine. Thanks very much.

11:40 a.m.

I also have a copy of a letter that I sent to the chief of the Kingfisher Lake bands that I would like to pass over to the member for Lake Nipigon. In essence, it approves the airport in that particular community. That concludes my response.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I would like to do two or three things. First, I would like to go to page 6 of the material sent to us just moments

ago. The minister makes reference to the Ontario Hydro application of microprocessors to control the power output of the diesel generator in Attawapiskat.

The select committee on the Ombudsman had the pleasure of visiting Attawapiskat last January. Aside from the concerns that were presented to the committee, concerns directly related to the Ombudsman's office, the general conversation we had about living that far north and the lifestyle elicited comments about the very poor hydro supply. We heard comments such as late in the afternoon if one has the stove on and uses any other appliance, one pops a fuse. Aside from making the observation about microprocessors, I am wondering whether the minister can tell us anything about the determination of Ontario Hydro to better service communities such as Attawapiskat. Certainly, the feeling we came away with was that they did not have adequate hydro service.

That is one point I would like to make to the minister. If he would prefer to answer these as I raise them, then I will sit down and let him respond, or would he prefer that I give him a list?

In the leadoff, I made reference to topics to which the minister did not reply in his response on Monday of this week. I made reference to the population growth situation in the north which is very close to zero. I do not expect that the minister in his advanced years will be able to do much to increase the population personally, but perhaps he might give us some indication of what his ministry is trying to do, if anything, to attract and keep population in the north.

Beyond that, the minister was inclined to try to nail me to the wall on the equalization of milk costs when I pointed out to him that things such as beer and liquor cost the same in southern Ontario as they do in the north, yet many food commodities, and I used milk as an example, are of a higher cost in the north.

The minister's response was to ask what my party would do. I avoided that because the responsibility has to be the government's. However, I did go on to say our party supports some form of tax relief to accommodate people in the north and that this is a much more reasonable way to accommodate such problems as the higher cost of living. That precludes levelling out prices at supermarkets, individual corner stores, etc. The minister did not respond to that, and I would like to know if he has any comments or observations.

I also made reference to the employment situation in the north, particularly as it relates to

young people. I asked questions about the royal commission. Coincidentally, after I made my comments a week ago, the Toronto Star had an editorial on that same theme suggesting the time has come for that commission to make its report.

I would like to know a lot of things about that report. I will share this question in specific detail as soon as the page returns. I sent this question out to be photocopied. I would like to know exactly how much money will have been spent on the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment, the Fahlgren report, or whatever it is going to be called when it is finally presented.

Mr. Stokes: About \$10.5 million.

Mr. Van Horne: I was going to submit that the numbers range around the \$10-million mark. My colleague says \$10.5 million. I would not be at all surprised if it crept up to \$11 million or \$12 million before we finally get it. At any rate, I would like to hear something from the minister on the status of that report.

We realize the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) has some responsibility for that report. However, it is a report on the northern environment, and this minister here is the number one minister of the north. Therefore, I would expect he would have some information for us.

The minister, if I recall correctly, did not make any reference to the Allan report, which I drew to his attention in some detail. That is the report on the small secondary schools in remote communities of the north. Neither did he make any reference to a subject the member for Nipigon and I have addressed many times—wild rice.

Beyond that, I would like to hear a little more about the determination of his ministry to encourage agricultural development in the north. Does he have a view of making the north more self-sufficient in so far as agriculture is concerned? It is my recollection that I did make reference to these in my leadoff and that the minister has not responded to them. Thus, I would like to give him the opportunity to do so.

Beyond that—and I will do this later today or on Monday—I have a series of questions that were put in Orders and Notices. These are questions regarding management consulting services, technical consulting services and so on. Many of these questions in Orders and Notices have not been answered, and I would like to put them back on the record again at some later point in the procedure.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I might respond now to the member for London North. If he checks Hansard, I think he will see where

comments were made with respect to the royal commission, the Allan report and wild rice. But I will repeat them and get them on the record again for the member.

He mentioned the question of poor hydro power in the Attawapiskat area. That is something I am personally very familiar with. I think it is fair to say we did look at the cost of running that line from Moosonee to Attawapiskat. When one realizes the cost would be in excess of \$32 million to serve 450 customers, the economics just are not there to save something like \$350,000 worth of fuel costs. That is something that will come down the road. I do not think it will come in these difficult economic times. However, it is one thing we will look at very carefully.

The member will notice that in my remarks on the energy question, we did identify Attawapiskat as one area that should be looked at with respect to these demonstration projects that do occur. They are difficult questions. We are very aware of the demand and need for improved hydro services. We hope these experiments they are pursuing in a number of different avenues will prove successful so that we could apply them in those remote Indian communities.

The question of zero growth is a difficult one. There is no question about that. I think we all realize there is not the massive growth in northern Ontario that many of us would have liked, worked for and hoped for.

One should realize what modern technology is doing in the resource industries. The mining industry is producing the same amount of metals it was 10 years ago with one third less staff and one third less miners. The same holds true in forestry operations. My father was involved in the sawmilling business, and I can remember the huge number of employees he used to have in the woods end of it and in the sawmill itself. Now the industry accomplishes the same production with about 30 per cent of the personnel. This is because of modern machinery and modern technology. That certainly does have an effect.

11:50 a.m.

I bring this question up at all our annual Northern Affairs conferences to try to compare what our growth is, or should be, in northern Ontario to that of places such as Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan, and even the Northwest Territories and the Yukon because they are always interesting. Their populations are not growing at the great speed they would like and they have similar problems. We are not dissimilar to other parts of northern Canada.

What do we do to try to offset that? We have in our own ministry made improvements to the community with respect to infrastructure, hoping to broaden commercial land bases to attract new industries. In our northern community economic development program we work right with the municipalities to try to broaden and diversify their economic base. We work with some 30 communities now in northern Ontario through the northern community economic development program.

We are also involved with the northern development program that was announced last June. It is going over exceptionally well. In fact, we have announced that some 30-odd projects and some 200 new permanent jobs will be established with that particular Nordev program.

The question of agriculture is on our minds and high on our list of priorities. I think we have a copy of that particular program. May I have a copy for the member for London North and the member for Lake Nipigon? I am sending over copies of the Nordev brochure, which I know the members will find very interesting, and also the AgriNorth brochure. This is a joint program the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Northern Affairs brought together. It is a five-year, \$10-million program to encourage development of agriculture right across northern Ontario in a number of different ways.

As I said in my opening remarks, AgriNorth is the good part of the Nordev program. The Nordev program expired last March. We have picked it up because it was well accepted and we felt it was doing a job. We have made some modifications to it and we think we have a very viable program that will work for northern Ontario farmers, dealing with land clearing and drainage and the types of development that really are required in northern Ontario. It is designed for northern Ontario farmers, by northern Ontario farmers and supported by a ministry from northern Ontario.

We are very active in those areas. I might say the member mentioned a tax incentive his party would apply to that part of the province. I want to remind him that we have a number of incentives right across the government such as the one for the capital construction program of hospitals. In southern Ontario the grant assistance is one third, but north of the French River five sixths of the capital cost is supported by the province.

Registering one's automobile costs \$48 in southern Ontario, but it is only \$24 in northern Ontario. The various unconditional grants in municipalities are much higher in northern

Ontario than they are in southern Ontario. The legislative grants with respect to the school boards or weighting factor are very heavily weighted in favour of northern Ontario's conditions and needs.

There is a broad number of incentives that take the sting out and really soften the high cost of building, of moving around northern Ontario and, in some instances, living in northern Ontario.

I have just been informed that in the latest copy of Northern Ontario Business there is a very interesting story on the front page. Supported by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, they recently completed a survey of the major communities in northern Ontario. The results of that survey, as it relates to the high cost of food, was that more than 50 per cent of the communities surveyed in northern Ontario have lower prices in northern Ontario than they have right in here in Toronto. I pointed that out yesterday to the delegation of municipal leaders from northwestern Ontario when they brought up the question of equalizing the price of gasoline.

We did a survey about six months ago. I think the member for Lake Nipigon heard about that survey. In at least the major centres along the Trans-Canada corridor, I think we were one tenth of a point cheaper on a litre of gasoline than in Toronto.

I was quick to point out yesterday that did not apply in Nakina, Red Lake, Ear Falls, some of the places off the beaten track; there is no question about that. However, it was encouraging for me as a northerner.

Mr. Stokes: That was after the people asked, "Where does the Minister of Northern Affairs buy his gas?"

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I buy it in Hudson. It is a little more expensive than in Toronto. The volume of sales in Hudson does not compare with the volume of sales that would be enjoyed by one of the filling station operators in Toronto.

It is encouraging to me periodically to see that these surveys indicate we are not that far off base. I think we have made some great strides in the last five or 10 years when we can stand in this Legislature and point to the fact that the price of fuel and gasoline is not far off. I think it is because of the efforts of the members of this House who have constantly focused on the disparity, discrepancy or whatever one wants to call it that was being applied to northern Ontario. I think the gap has narrowed.

Two instances referred to are the cost of food and the cost of gasoline. These are moving

ahead. I think our efforts to bring these issues constantly before the public and the private sector will certainly do something to encourage competition and keep us on an even balance with the rest of the province.

The member mentioned the cost of the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. I want to point out that is not a responsibility of and does not relate directly to the Ministry of Northern Affairs, although we are very much concerned about the report.

Mr. Stokes: You mean to disband that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I want to say something about that. I think it is unfair for the members to criticize the royal commission before the report has come down. One cannot criticize something that is not there.

The commission did make some reports, albeit a little late. I referred to the Detour Lake road. It came down with its report. I do not know what the final cost will be, but the press reports I have read recently indicate it will be around \$10 million. I am not sure. I urge the member to bring this matter before the Attorney General.

Mr. McClellan: The public accounts committee.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Or the standing committee on public accounts. The Attorney General is directly responsible for royal commissions of this government and they report directly to him. I am hopeful something positive will come from that report.

I think the members across the floor look forward to something positive. It will be something we can get our teeth into and something that will further improve the quality of life for the people, including our native people who live north of the 50th parallel.

I was personally involved from day one with the Commission of Inquiry regarding Small Schools in Northern Ontario. There was my involvement with the member for Lake Nipigon and the many meetings and telephone calls I received from that area during the explosive discussions that were going on. It was most encouraging to have the Minister of Education respond to our request in short order by looking at the situation along the north shore.

12 noon

A fellow northerner, Rodger Allan from the Sudbury area, who is very knowledgeable and has been in the education business for years, took on the task, not only to look at what was happening in the Schreiber, Terrace Bay, Marathon and Manitouwadge areas but also to branch

out and visit Ear Falls, Red Lake and Dryden to incorporate some of the requirements that were needed in the education system, particularly in the secondary education system. It was obvious that additional dollars were required and that we were falling behind the rest of province in delivering some programs because of the small student population.

The assistance we have come up with is very positive. The Minister of Education has come forward with \$1 million this year. She has also brought up to northern Ontario eight consulting specialists, who will work very closely with those small boards that cannot afford this type of expensive service, support and direction.

Since this was a unique northern Ontario problem, we as a ministry felt we could assist here with the strong endorsement of the Minister of Education, and we came forward with \$3 million in addition to her \$1 million. As a result, we have a \$4-million program to answer the capital requirements of those 16 separate school boards.

I have just been told that our assistance of \$3 million over the next three years will go to 26 separate high schools right across northern Ontario.

We spotted a problem, we moved quickly and we responded not only with support but also with our dollars. That is what the ministry is all about.

I know the acceptance from the school boards was very positive. We indicated to them that we would be prepared to look at their requests as soon as they directed them to us. They will be examined very closely by the Ministry of Northern Affairs in co-ordination with the Ministry of Education. It is moving ahead; in fact, I hope to make the first announcement about our direct assistance by the end of October.

While we are answering some of those problems, I have to admit that I personally do not see the end of the problem within the next three years; I think the problem is greater than the three-year span we have looked at. But we have targeted for at least three years; it may go on to five or six. If the need is still there and we have not rectified all the requirements, we will continue our financial support.

With regard to wild rice, I think the honourable members are aware that there are certain areas in northern Ontario which the Ministry of Natural Resources has licensed and is continuing to license to the general public, be they native or non-native, particularly in northeastern Ontario.

In the northwest, the questions and the discussions are still going on with the native

people concerning the areas they have traditionally harvested. There is no question, as we have said on so many occasions, that the traditional harvesting areas are theirs in perpetuity as far as we are concerned because it is part of their religion; besides being an economic base for them, it is part of their way of life. The Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) has said repeatedly that they will be protected.

We have to look at those areas outside the traditional harvesting areas and come forward with a licensing program that will encourage natives and non-natives to develop the high potential that is there in northwestern Ontario, because it is the high-potential area for wild rice.

I want to point out that three or four years ago we in our ministry identified a need to encourage research with respect to what we think is a very lucrative food product that can be grown exclusively in northwestern and northeastern Ontario.

For this reason, we engaged the services of Professor Peter Lee, who had been working with a professor at the University of Manitoba for a number of years. The name of the professor in Manitoba escapes me, but Peter Lee became well respected; he is now recognized as one of the leading authorities in the development of wild rice on the North American continent. It is because we have funded that research program at Lakehead University at about \$100,000 a year for the last four years now, and it will likely continue for a few years yet.

It is very important not only that we come up with an acceptable, manageable licensing system that takes in all the native and non-native population but also that we have the research available in northwestern Ontario. I want to commend Lakehead University for taking the initiative and providing the necessary space and support staff that Peter Lee needs. They do provide a service up there right now. If one has a certain area one would like to develop as a wild rice producing area, they will do the soil testing. If one sends a soil sample to them, Lakehead University will do a breakdown and give a full report on the type of soil and whether it will support the development of a wild rice crop.

In my opinion, that is moving very effectively. In the next year or two, I think members will see a turnaround in the whole question of the development of wild rice in northwestern Ontario. During this five- or six-year moratorium, I think we have done ourselves more harm than good with respect to even the native people and our position in the world marketing system. Cali-

fornia now is developing wild rice and finds it more lucrative than growing white rice. In Minnesota, the industry has grown by leaps and bounds. Saskatchewan has gone ahead in the past three or four years, and Alberta is getting into the act. We have lost ground.

Mr. Van Horne: Are they not catering to gourmet food types?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, they are; and that is one of the fallacies. I get very annoyed when I go to an airport and I see wild rice, which I know was sold to a company for \$5 or \$6 a pound, priced at \$15 or \$17 a pound. That is gouging. The gourmet aspect of it has been blown out of proportion. Average people now can buy wild rice at a price they can afford to pay. It is not out of anybody's reach any more.

Mr. Stokes: How much is being charged for it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Around \$5.50 or \$6 a pound. In Winnipeg, just last week, I saw \$15.95 being charged for some rice for which I know they did not pay more than \$6. That is a little much. It is like selling diamonds. They are doing us a disservice by putting a high price on it and putting it in the minds of a lot of people that it is just out of reach.

Mr. Van Horne: By way of observation, a year or two ago the minister was kind enough to provide two samples of California and northern Ontario rice. My wife and I are very fond of this commodity. We do not consider ourselves gourmets in any sense, but we certainly enjoyed the Ontario variety. I do not say that to pat anyone on the back, but it is far superior—

Mr. Stokes: What happened this year? Was the crop down?

Mr. Van Horne: Yes, we did not get any. We are out of it, by the way. It is far superior to the California wild rice.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am pleased to hear that. I have to admit that I have never tried the California rice. I remember I received a number of packages that I distributed to my cabinet colleagues just to make them aware of what was happening out there. I am pleased to hear our product is far superior.

I wonder if the member has tried the canned wild rice.

Mr. Van Horne: No.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will make sure before these estimates are over that he gets a sample of the canned wild rice from the great part of

northwestern Ontario that I represent. He will enjoy it.

Mr. Stokes: From Ben Ratuski, the minister's campaign manager.

12:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: My campaign manager does an excellent job, not only as a campaign manager but also in producing and marketing wild rice. If the member is in the Kenora area in the fall, it would pay him to stop by; he would really be interested in seeing his operation.

It is just a super operation, ideally built in Keewatin. It has a gravity feed system, because he operates off a high cliff near the Winnipeg River. There is lots of water and gravity feed. It is well designed. They put a lot of wild rice through there. They do a lot of processing for other people, not just for themselves. A lot of the bands are bringing in large quantities of rice. He processes it and they put it in their own packages and sell it. It is an industry that has to grow; it knows no limits.

Mr. Stokes: The minister said he would share with me a copy of a letter he sent to Chief Simon Sakakeep on June 25, 1984. I thought it was a letter he was sending confirming what he said on Monday. This one is old hat. The minister thanked him for his band council resolution concerning the request for the construction of an airstrip at Kingfisher and gave a lot of reasons why he was not going to act at this time.

If the minister will look at page 3236 of Hansard for last Monday, October 15, he said in referring to Kingfisher: "They just wanted a helping hand to move forward. It was a nice, positive, sincere attitude, and we were pleased to respond to their request for an airstrip, which will go ahead as quickly as possible."

I thought what the minister was doing was confirming in writing what he had said. I took the trouble to call Kingfisher after he made that remark. I did not get a chance to talk to Chief Sakakeep, but I spoke to Noah Winter, who is the band administrator. He said, "We have heard nothing, but we are awfully pleased to hear that he has agreed to build an airstrip."

I thought that was what the minister was doing—confirming what he had said here during the estimates. I am not being critical, but there has been a breakdown in communications some place. When are we going to get the letter confirming that the ministry is prepared to go ahead with the construction of the airstrip at Kingfisher?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am just getting a copy of the approval letter. It has all gone through. We

brought out the previous letter by mistake. The approval letter has gone out and the airport is going ahead.

Mr. Stokes: I am sorry the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Fish) has left, because her ministry is responsible, through the Indian community branch, for delivering some services, even though it has a very modest budget. To the extent that the provincial government has any responsibility in such matters, it rests with her. This is so even though in policy matters and in liaison between this government and the federal government, the responsibility rests with the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling).

The minister never responded to that. Given the nature of his riding, I had thought he would concern himself with that. He knows the problems that native people in the north have in breaking through the bureaucratic maze, and he does get involved peripherally. It seems to me he will jump in and he will jump out, jump in and jump out. If there is some political mileage to be gained he will jump in—that is human nature—and if it is something that is more than he wants to get his teeth into, he will do some fed-bashing. Now that we have David Crombie at the federal level, the days of fed-bashing are over, and somebody has to look after the legitimate needs and aspirations of native people any place there is a void.

I want to refer to a couple of for-instances, and I am sure the minister will know what I mean. We represent, as does he and the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché), all of the real north of Ontario. It does not matter to the people in those remote native communities whether one is a federal or provincial member. If one is accessible and shows a willingness to listen and assist them wherever possible, they do not differentiate between federal and provincial responsibilities.

On October 5, I wrote a joint letter to the minister and to the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), and correspondence was attached. The minister will know what I am talking about. I am not going to bore the committee with all the details, but I say:

"Enclosed are copies of correspondence I have received from the Fort Hope Indian Band. This is a continuation of the ongoing saga in the efforts of the Fort Hope Indian Band to secure a reliable source of gravel of an acceptable quality. This is necessary to maintain the Fort Hope airstrip which the minister has responsibility for, as well

as the needs of the band, the Department of Indian Affairs, and National Health and Welfare.

"I am sure you are both aware of the urgency in this matter and the necessity to identify an adequate source of good-quality gravel for the long-term needs of all concerned. Please may I hear from you at your earliest convenience."

That is one issue.

I want to remind the minister that when we travel up north we get inundated with requests from senior citizens to assist them in establishing their date of birth or their date of marriage to qualify for old age security or the Canada pension plan. This is a never-ending process for me. I go to great lengths to try to get the registrar general down here to search his records.

I have had cases where people 70 years of age and older are unable to collect old age security, which is a right of every senior citizen in the province, but because somebody did not take the trouble to preserve the records, or because there has been a fire in a church someplace, those records were destroyed.

The office of the registrar general, which is an emanation of the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations, is at a loss to know what to do. Then we go to Ottawa and ask whether they will do a search of the census records and whether they will accept that and somehow assist those people in coming up with proof of age, proof of marriage or something like that.

If the minister deals with these problems personally, or if he talks to his staff who are responsible for the constituency problems he has asked them to assist with, he will know this is an ever-increasing problem.

I want to read into the record a very good letter that I got from Reverend Ralph K. Rowe, who is a priest-pilot with the Anglican church; he has his headquarters in Big Trout Lake, and he travels far and wide in the minister's riding. He wrote me a letter dated September 27. He says:

"I understand that you too have been trying to help Henry Frogg of Long Dog Lake... (not to be confused with Henry Frogg of Kasabonika) to establish his age for pension purposes.

"We have searched the available church records and cannot find any record of his baptism, nor can Moosonee diocese synod office. Some records have been destroyed by a church fire at Central Patricia and it may be Henry's records were included there.

"To the best of Henry's knowledge, he was born at or near Long Dog (on the Asheweig River system) about May 14, 1918. His father was Felix and his mother Juliet, née Winter. He has

been told he was baptized at Fort Hope (Eabamet Lake) by the Reverend Mr. Fairies, who visited from York Factory, Manitoba, by canoe or dog team. Fort Hope was in the diocese of Moosonee at the time, but Mr. Fairies visited from Keewatin diocese.

"There is no record of Henry's baptism in the York Factory register, which is in the archives at our synod office in Kenora. Quite possibly, Mr. Fairies entered the baptism in one of the Moosonee registers which have been destroyed by fire.

"However, in a discussion with the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, Mr. Aird, at Big Trout Lake a year or so ago, it was mentioned that there is a procedure by which age can be established at least to the satisfaction of the pension office by means of the Canada statistics survey taken every five years." Actually, it is taken every 10 years, as members know. "Could this not be done for Henry and a host of others who are having difficulty proving their age?

12:20 p.m.

"At the meeting with the Lieutenant Governor, I protested (and Mr. Aird reflected the same feeling) that the onus for the proof of age should rest on the individual.

"Especially in remote regions like northwestern Ontario, both the federal and the provincial governments have been slow to establish the records and services which were accomplished in other parts of Canada many years earlier.

"It was not until after the treaty of 1929 that attempts were made to have suitable records and band lists, and even today these band lists are filled with numerous errors.

"Surely if the government demands proof of age for pension and other services, the onus should be on the government to have provided the means of proving age, and where it has been remiss in establishing records (as in the case of northwestern Ontario), then some reasonable alternative, such as using Canada statistics or the use of affidavits and statements of elders, etc., should be acceptable for the purposes of establishing proof of age or residency.

"The native people especially, and anyone else with language differences, are really handicapped by the bureaucracy as it exists. I myself have spent many hours writing on behalf of many over the years. I can personally attest to the fact that many have had to wait for years for the pension to which they were lawfully entitled because they could not prove their age to the satisfaction of our bureaucracy. Some, unfor-

tunately, have died before any such benefits arrived. Surely this is not right; surely it goes against the whole spirit behind the establishment of the pension plan.

"I would appreciate whatever you can do to help for Henry and for many others in similar circumstances.

"Thank you and God bless.

"Signed: Ralph Rowe."

If the minister looks in his own files he will see that his staff spend a goodly length of time trying to help these senior citizens living in remote communities to establish proof of birth, proof of age, proof of marriage. I have written to Mr. David Smith of old age security and asked him to hold a tribunal at which he could go up there and say: "Okay, there are no records. It is obvious that this person is well over age 65."

But let us have a tribunal so they could have a meeting of their peers and establish beyond any reasonable doubt that those people are entitled to old age security or Canada pension plan. There are a lot of them who are not getting it because government—and I do not distinguish; just "government"—cannot get its act together.

There is one other. This is a letter to Dr. Jim Parr on October 5. I am not sure the minister received a copy of it; it is probably unfair to ask him. We got a letter from the Wapekeka band; it used to be known as Angling Lake. They had been promised the signal from TVOntario. Apparently the dish is already in place; the tower is already in place, I am advised; but they are told they are going to have to wait until next spring for a hookup.

The minister finances a goodly portion of this program. It is a program I appreciate very much and I know all the communities that are enjoying it or are soon to enjoy it appreciate it very much. I am not going to read the letter into the record, but Chief Anderson pointed out in it that the reserve has very limited forms of communication. At the present time it receives service only from Wawatay by radio, and then it gets the Wawatay News about once a month, and that is the extent of any communication with the outside world.

They are extremely anxious to be hooked up to TVOntario at Angling Lake at the earliest possible date. They have been advised they will not receive service until the spring of 1985. It is our understanding that TVOntario has installed the dish or the tower. It is hard to convince those people that they should have to wait, even though most of the technology seems to be there. They wonder why they have to wait for a hookup until

somebody visits the community some time in the spring of 1985.

I have voluminous files on the problems people have in the north. There is no obvious direction in which to point those specific problems. I regret that the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Fish) is not here because, through her native community branch and its director, Fred Boden, one would hope that all the native people would feel free to make contact with them, to write to them; but they do not have the staff or budget; they are just playing around the edges.

The minister knows this from his travels to the far north. Those people quite often fall between two stools. They wonder: "Is it a provincial thing? Can we rely on the provincial jurisdiction to act as an advocate on our behalf, or is it a federal problem?"

I can say that 50 per cent of my work day is taken up with federal problems. I think it is fair to say that at least 50 per cent of everything I do as the provincially elected member for Lake Nipigon deals with federal problems.

That is a fact of life. I am not going to say to those people: "I am sorry, but that is not in my jurisdiction. However, when you find something that fits four-square within what is traditionally expected of a provincial member, I will do it; but this is not in my jurisdiction". One just does not do that when one represents ridings such as those of the minister and myself. One does whatever one can for those people.

I could spend the rest of the time allocated bringing out "for instances." I am not saying that the minister personally should do it, but we do not have a northern affairs officer, for instance. I know the excellent work the northern affairs officers do in the north. I think it is fair to say that those officers spend about 50 per cent of their time dealing with federal issues or providing information with regard to federal programs. They do an excellent job.

Why could the minister not do it in the absence of acceptance of responsibility by the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling), who gets paid to do those kinds of things? If one goes over to the Whitney Block, the first door one sees is marked, "Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, Indian branch," or "Indian affairs."

If one asked the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development or his predecessor, they would not have a clue. They could tell a little about some tripartite function the secretariat has. However, if one asked them to get down to the

nitty-gritty, roll up their sleeves and do something meaningful, useful and constructive on behalf of our first citizens, they would not know which end was up.

I am sure the minister does not go to them with the problems. I am sure that very rarely does he ever think it worth while to go to his colleague the Minister of Citizenship and Culture. She will do something with regard to cultural needs, but if one talks about the social and economic problems of our first citizens, and wants to get some assistance through the native community branch of that ministry, one should just forget it.

12:30 p.m.

The Minister of Citizenship and Culture is coming in now. I am not going to repeat what I said. She can read it in Hansard.

In the absence of any leadership through the native community branch of her ministry, and in the absence of any responsibility one had hoped the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development would take to assist our first citizens who find themselves in a very difficult position when wading through the bureaucratic maze, will the minister at least begin to think about the possibility of setting up northern affairs officers, or an officer?

Maybe there could be one for northeastern Ontario and one for northwestern Ontario. Then elected members of this assembly could say: "Here is a real problem with senior citizens being able to establish proof of age. Here is a real problem with TVOntario. Here is a real problem with a band that is having difficulty identifying a reliable source of gravel."

We know what the problems are, but would the minister consider setting up an officer of northern affairs? They do a heck of a good job in the populated areas, but very rarely, if ever, do they get to a northern reserve to say, "We are here to provide a service for everybody in Ontario, regardless of where they may live."

I would like a response from the minister on that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I know full well how the member for Lake Nipigon feels. I share his frustration on many occasions in dealing with the problems he has outlined. There is no question the jurisdictional area between the federal and the provincial governments will have to be more clearly defined some day.

I go up there on a regular basis. I try to get there in the winter and in the summer; maybe twice in the summer. Even I find it difficult moving in and trying to help with economic development. Sometimes we are beyond our

jurisdiction. The airstrip development program is a good example. If we had waited until we resolved the jurisdictional responsibility for airstrips and the application of that facility on a reserve—because some of them are on the reserve and some are off the reserve and there is just an agreement through a band council resolution, which is a very loose arrangement—if we had not charged ahead and accomplished that, we would not have the airstrip development program in place.

With that program, the improvement to those municipalities is absolutely unreal. They now have streets; most of them have an airstrip, hydroelectric power and street lights. In Sandy Lake, they have 90 cars and only about four miles of road. Now they only want traffic signs; it is so difficult. That program answered a need, but on the reserve we are sometimes told by the federal authorities: "This is our responsibility. Do not interfere." We have to tread carefully and tiptoe through the tulips. There is no question about it.

Mr. Van Horne: Just charge down to Ottawa and hug them all.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I want to speak to that point, because I intend to go down to see the new Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. I think they have to—

Mr. Van Horne: The minister may be able to catch him in Toronto.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Or in Toronto, yes. We should work out a better relationship because we have a winter road program—

Mr. Van Horne: The minister has faith in him even though he is from Toronto. At the same time we get criticized for—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The jury is still out. He has to be given a chance. It is such a difficult task. There is no question it is a difficult task because he has to apply policy right across the province. The jurisdictional aspect is a problem. I will try to lean on the federal authorities. Now that we have an enlightened administration there we may be able to sort out some of these annoying and frustrating problems to which the member for Lake Nipigon refers. Gravel is one of them; just a simple supply of gravel.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications does have a 50 per cent cost-sharing program for the maintenance of the roads, but its 50 per cent must come out of its core funding. Maybe the time has come when we should lean on the federal government to increase its core funding or to designate to certain things some of

those funds out of the core funding that goes to a band.

I have several bands in my area in which the core funding is all moved into housing needs because the housing needs are so desperate, and this is a total federal responsibility. I am sure the member realizes this. It puts all its money into housing and there is nothing with which to do the streets. There are not even a few dollars to look after the town recreational centre, fix the town dock or something like that; it has all gone into housing because the need is so desperate. I intend to bring this forward to the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Honourable David Crombie.

Concerning the winter roads aspect, we made a commitment with the former administration that if it would cut a right of way on a land-based route, an alignment, and the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, the Ministry of Natural Resources and the Ministry of Northern Affairs would assist, with the co-operation of the bands, in defining the alignment. This is what we have done in the Petahbun area, from Sandy Lake down to Pikangikum and Poplar Hill into Red Lake. They were advanced about \$1.2 million to clear a 30-foot right of way on land because they lost two or three of their fellow workers on the ice.

Mr. Stokes: You are just throwing good money after bad going back at it every year, it seems to me. All you have to do is talk to the people who are responsible for building those roads on a regular basis; talk to Billy Koval of Pickle Lake.

I had some liquid libation with him not very long ago. We were talking about that in Pickle Lake, and he said some of those communities do not want direct access. This is the problem the minister had at Round Lake.

But if you build a permanent road and have winter roads branching off, it maintains—I hate to use this word—the isolation they want. They think that by not providing an all-weather, permanent road they will avoid some of the social problems they think are bound to crop up if you can get cars, booze and all the other things in.

The minister has spent \$500,000 a year for goodness knows how many years providing winter access that disintegrates because half of them are over lakes. It seems to me that Billy Koval has a good idea. If you get a good road alignment, something you can build on solid ground, once you have built it you have built it and all you have to do from then on is maintain it. If they still want to maintain that degree of

isolation, then we can build winter roads to those various communities branching off the main road.

But, for heaven's sake, do not go back and spend \$500,000 every year. When the spring thaw comes, the road disappears and they are right back knocking on the minister's door again in the fall to say, "Build me another road at another \$500,000." That is not a good use of public funds; it serves nobody's interest well. If you said, "This winter let us build 50 or 75 miles of good road on good, solid ground." You would finish that and then branch off it—whether it is the Windigo, Kayahna or the Petahbun tribal council, you are doing something that is going to be there and is going to have some permanency; it makes some sense.

12:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We certainly agree with that, and that is the route we are taking. As I said earlier, we have the route and the alignment clearly identified now on the west side. They have about 40 per cent of that road completed and cut, but they need another infusion of additional funds.

The route we took in our argument to the federal government was that this was a job creation program. The federal government was going across Canada looking for Mickey Mouse programs and projects to spend money on to create jobs.

This was a natural. Cutting that alignment for hundreds of miles on a proper alignment is something they can do and do themselves, and they did. They engaged cutters from Sandy Lake, Poplar Hill and Deer Lake. They got about 50 per cent done.

We have made a commitment that if they will cut that alignment on the land we will accept the responsibility as a province of putting the road through every winter. Putting that access through would be a lasting investment and a wise expenditure of public funds. I intend to follow up on that issue with the new federal minister.

Getting further into the member's comments with respect to the problems of the elderly, I share with him the same problems he is having. In my area at Sandy Lake and Deer Lake, every time I go up there a long list of elders come to me who are having difficulty identifying their ages. They are caught up in the bureaucratic requirements of baptismal certificates, birth certificates, identification, family bibles and school books. A lot of those things they did not have and had not even heard of.

On this last trip I took in late August a similar problem surfaced at Sandy Lake and Deer Lake. It was so severe and the list was so long that I instructed one of our Ministry of Northern Affairs officers to go up and spend several days in the Sandy Lake, Deer Lake and Pikangikum area to sort out that problem.

Merv Wilson, our Northern Affairs officer, did that and is working on a number of issues with the band and those individuals. We are prepared to do that for the member if he has another area that has a sizeable number of problems. It is difficult to do that for one or two problems, but if there were five or six, we would send up a Northern Affairs officer. I would make that commitment to any other member. I do not know if the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) is here or not, but we will certainly do that.

These things are so difficult to resolve. One has to go onsite to get as much factual information as one can. It cannot be done by letter because it is most difficult to explain oneself and get the proper response in a letter. If one is onsite, talking eyeball to eyeball, so to speak, to the Indian chiefs and the other elders, one can sort out all the various bits of information, then go out and try to find all the other information to make a valid case and make a proper application.

If a member has some areas that require this type of personal attention, we will direct a Northern Affairs officer into that area.

In my experience over the years, this problem is diminishing slightly. I can remember going into Sandy Lake 16 or 17 years ago, and coming out with a list of 25. Now I am coming out with a list of five or 10. As we are getting older, I guess they are getting a little less.

Mr. Stokes: They are dying off while they are waiting for old age pensions.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: While they are waiting, yes.

I found the elders were most helpful in sorting out this problem.

Mr. Stokes: The problem was not resolved; it just disappeared.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: On the one side it is very comforting to resolve the issue, and they get a back cheque for one year's pension or a year and a half's pension. It is a sizeable cheque, but the suffering that has occurred in the meantime is not offset sometimes by that back pay.

Mr. Stokes: I just got one for Henry Frogg. We got him back pay of something like \$3,500.

Now we are trying to do the same thing for his wife.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I see.

As to the question of Angling Lake and TVOntario, I am pleased the member has recognized that excellent program we have. He has heard me say it many times. We will service about 170 pockets of population, as I call them, because that is what they are.

Two teams move in. The power and dish team go in and put up the cement, put in the power and aim the dish in the right direction. Then the technicians come in and put the last bit of technology in place.

I would suspect the problem at Angling Lake could be the absence of hydro power. I am not sure, but if that is the case, we will follow it up with TVO. We are checking right now, so we will have an answer for the member.

Mr. Stokes: They do not have community power, if that is what the minister means.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Or sufficient power of some sort. That may be a problem.

We have not resolved the question of Angling Lake with regard to the airstrip. I think the member was aware that since it is so close to Big Trout Lake, there was a feeling that to develop an airstrip at Angling would not be economical. They would sooner have a road connecting them to Big Trout Lake.

Mr. Stokes: Yes.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I think that is one area we will be looking at. I do not have any answers with regard to the hydro question, but we will see if we can get that for the member.

Gravel is certainly a problem the Ministry of Transportation and Communications is grappling with. It tries to work very closely and co-operatively with the band using the equipment they have, but sometimes the road requirements are quite lengthy. I know at Sachigo Lake they want to build a road of something like 20 or 25 miles. With a grader, a couple of trucks and one tractor, it is very difficult to build on that terrain and that is causing some problems. I will take that up with the federal minister too and make that point.

Mr. Stokes: I wish the minister would, because I know he is interested and concerned. He will put it high on his list of priorities. I know the Ministry of Transportation and Communications is very co-operative, as is Hydro, as long as the federal government will come up with the bucks. With respect to maintaining airstrips that benefit all of us, without them we would not be

able to get in and out of there. Other agencies and ministries of government rely on the airstrip program for easy travel in and out of those communities.

As the minister so rightly pointed out earlier, they have so many varied and diverse problems. If they are going to do something with regard to roads, they have to take away from their housing program and there is not enough money. I am hoping that at the first opportunity the minister gets to sit down with David Crombie he will sort of reflect the conversation we have been having here that there has to be a better liaison.

The Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will say: "No, we just do not have any funds for that at this particular time. It is going to have to wait its turn. We will give them block funding. They can spend it on housing if they want and let their airstrip or the provision of gravel go down the drain. We cannot embark upon educational or recreational facilities or water and sewer because there is only so many dollars to go around. It is up to the community to decide where it is going to spend it."

It becomes very frustrating for those people. I just hope the minister will take advantage of the first opportunity he has to sit down and talk to David Crombie about this. The problem is not going to go away; it is going to get worse. If we are ever going to reach the point that wherever they demonstrate an ability to run their own affairs, Indian government, the sooner we let them make their own mistakes the better and in the process we hope they will not make the same mistake twice.

The sooner there is a realistic look at the magnitude of the problem in the north and the sooner the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development accepts its responsibility somewhere in keeping with and approximating the nature and the severity of those problems, the better it will be for the minister, myself, native people and everybody else. I hope the minister will undertake to do that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I certainly intend to do so. If I could have a page here, I would like to send a copy of my approval letter that was sent to the chief of Kingfisher Lake band to the member for Lake Nipigon. Maybe the honourable member would like to read it into the record. I am sure his people up there would be most pleased.

Mr. Stokes: It is a calculated risk reading it without having vetted it first.

Mr. Van Horne: He is setting the member up.

Mr. Stokes: He is setting me up. I am sure he is.

Mr. Nixon: You have your own letters you can read.

12:50 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: Yes. We spoke about that earlier.

To get it on the record, I hope it says what I think it says. It is to Simon Sakakeep, chief of the Kingfisher Lake band.

"Dear Chief,

"Thank you for your generous hospitality and the opportunity to meet with you and your council during my visit to Kingfisher Lake August 29, 1984.

"I was particularly pleased with the progressive attitude of your community and the economic development projects the band has undertaken. I commend you and Noah Winter for your initiative.

"I recognize that the construction of an airport at Kingfisher Lake is a high priority. Accordingly, I am pleased to confirm my ministry will finance the development of such a facility under the remote airport capital construction program." But here is the qualification. "The timing for implementation of this undertaking depends on the availability of funds, but I am hopeful that the necessary equipment can be transported to Kingfisher Lake during the winter of 1985-86 for construction start in 1986."

That is not this winter at all. A year from now the minister will think about getting the equipment in for a start in 1986. That is just what I complained about; that is what caused me to raise it in the first place.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They are pleased with that.

Mr. McClellan: I guess we will have to go up there again.

Mr. Stokes: When I got that commitment from the minister and read it into the record, he said, "It was a nice, positive, sincere attitude, and we were pleased to respond to their request, which will go ahead as quickly as possible." That is as quickly as possible?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I should point out that we are building an airstrip at Cat Lake. That is moving full steam ahead and it should be finished by next fall. It might be used this fall, but—

Mr. Stokes: They used to build two every year and now they are building one every two years.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No; Muskrat Dam is coming on this year and Kingfisher is next year. I must point out again that Kingfisher would have

been on stream earlier had we received the band council resolution earlier, but they told us they were not interested. In addition to this, we are putting more money into the program because we are doing Ogoki besides that.

Mr. Stokes: The minister said last Monday, "The reason we did not act as promptly as we would have liked to in response to the request for an airstrip..." and so forth. I do not want to give him a history lesson but I want to refresh his memory. He will recall that about eight or nine years ago he and I were actively involved in assisting the Big Trout Lake Indian band in getting reserve status for satellite communities such as Angling Lake, Wunnummin Lake, Kingfisher Lake, Kasabonika and—he can help me—two or three in his riding: Muskrat and—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Muskrat Dam.

Mr. Stokes: We battled the federal bureaucrats over in Ottawa for years. When we finally got an agreement it was a tradeoff. Some land had to be taken away from the Big Trout Lake band in order to get an appropriate size reserve for the satellite community. They made a mistake with regard to Kingfisher, the very one we are talking about.

There were three parcels of land that were to form the reserve boundaries at Kingfisher. What they had been promised was not reflected in the final agreement. Rather than hold it up and go back to the drawing board, they said to the Kingfisher Lake band: "If you will not withhold your approval, so that we can satisfy the legitimate aspirations of all of the other satellite communities, we will guarantee to make it right. We understand what you are saying. We simply made a mistake, but let us not hold up the whole process for that one thing." Kingfisher, in good faith, said that would be fine.

Does the minister know that it took them a further six years to resolve that one minor problem? He should not point his finger at Kingfisher Lake and say they were dragging their feet. They had to make sure they were going to get the land they were promised by the agreement eight years earlier before they could decide where they wanted the airstrip.

There are two sides to every story. I just wanted to make the minister and members of the committee aware that he is blaming the wrong people.

Our colleague just signed an order in council granting them the land that was promised to them eight years ago, and that was done within the last year. Now that is all resolved; now they know where they want the airstrip; now they know they

have tenure to the land and they are off and running. I thought we had better keep all that in perspective.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: If I could add a little to that: the ownership of the land would certainly not deter us from building an airstrip. We have built airstrips on crown land in some cases and on reserve land in other cases. Had we received a positive response, we would have acted more quickly than we have. I know they wanted that airport on reserve land. I am aware of that.

Mr. Van Horne: I have another question to put to the minister before we conclude today's activities. In my opening comment, I made reference to the seasonally adjusted hydro rate proposal. I may be wrong, but I do not recall the minister addressing himself to my question on that point.

I also made reference to the Northern Ontario Development Corp. funding, the slippage from some \$23 million to \$10 million in 1982-83. I know the minister has made reference to many different dollars and monetary issues, but in that specific instance, and again I may be wrong, I do not recall his addressing the particular point I made.

Beyond that, I indicated I wanted to get to a few points we attempted to investigate through questions in Orders and Notices. When we return here on Monday, it may well be we will finish these estimates that afternoon. I hope we can take a look through the ministry estimates and spend a few minutes at least on the various items there.

The questions we had in Orders and Notices were questions such as this: Would the Minister of Northern Affairs indicate the amount spent by the ministry for management consulting services, technical consulting services, communication services, legal services, research and development services, creative communication services, as defined by Management Board of Cabinet Manual of Administration? We also specified certain years.

In the review of the estimates on Monday, I hope the minister will be able to provide an indication at least of what kind of services his ministry is using in these various areas. In the last minute or two, I will not attempt to read all the other details we were after in the Orders and Notices questions, which still remain unanswered. We were concerned as a party about the government's use of people, part-time and full-time, within the government and people who were brought in as consultants, etc.

Using a moment to address a theme our party has been very concerned about, it strikes me as

passing strange that the Ministry of Northern Affairs devotes too much of its energy to public opinion polls in the north. We have asked questions about that too in Orders and Notices. Again, the responses have been conspicuous by their absence. I hope on Monday, if the ministry is doing any polling—and I do not want to create the impression we consider this to be all bad—I will learn if there has been any polling or if there is any place in the estimates we are now considering where we could find a reference to that.

Given the time, I think it is appropriate that I take my seat and let the minister adjourn the debate.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Perhaps I could wind up for today by pointing out to the member for Lake Nipigon that the dish is in place at Angling Lake. They are having some problems getting the electronics for the dish. They are looking at early

December for delivery and the latest it will be in place would be February.

In answer to the member for London North, I will have some information for him with respect to the Northern Ontario Development Corp. We are just checking those figures out now and the answers to the questions in Orders and Notices will be with us on Monday.

With regard to opinion polls, we do not use them in this ministry because we have an excellent staff, 70 per cent of whom are located in northern Ontario. They are grass-roots staff. I can assure the member that my answer on Monday for the questions on the order paper will be that no opinion polls are ever taken by this ministry.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 1:02 p.m.

APPENDIX

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES

HOSPITAL BEDS

334. Mr. Cooke: Will the Minister of Health give the dates on which there were 1,000 empty hospital beds available in Metropolitan Toronto? In the reply, would the minister indicate which hospitals the beds were located in?

If the ministry does not keep records which enable it to give a specific response, will the minister table any survey or other research it has done which would lead to the conclusion that large numbers of hospital beds have been available for medical use in Metropolitan Toronto at any time in the last three years? [Tabled May 7, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Norton: A survey done on May 7, 1980, by the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto showed that there were approximately 1,000 vacant beds in Metro Toronto on the day the survey was performed. The records available do not show which hospitals the beds were located in.

The average occupancy rate in Metropolitan Toronto hospitals for all levels of care in 1983-84 was 88.9 per cent. Therefore, on average, there were 1,652 empty hospital beds in Metropolitan Toronto hospitals on a daily basis. As these figures are averages, the number of empty beds on a given day may be more or less than 1,652. The same figure for 1982-83 was 1,623 beds on a daily basis, and for 1981-82, 1,735.

In order to answer the question on a by-hospital basis, the daily census summary forms as submitted by hospitals would need to be analysed on a daily basis to determine the number of patients in hospital. As the figures for over 40 hospitals would need to be analysed manually, it would take considerable resources to undertake a complete analysis.

The figures have been analysed on a yearly basis in aggregate and are based on beds staffed and in operation. The average figures can be deduced for each hospital by using the Hospital Statistics publications.

ANIMALS FOR RESEARCH

417. Mr. Philip: Is the ministry aware that six municipalities and the Association of Shelter Administrators of Ontario have passed resolutions asking the government to repeal certain sections of the Animals for Research Act? Is the

ministry prepared to repeal any sections of this act? Is the ministry planning any amendments to the act? If so, what is the nature of the amendments and when can they be expected? [Tabled June 20, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: The ministry is aware that requests have been made for changes in the Animals for Research Act, which regulates procurement and use of animals in Ontario research facilities.

The section to which the member refers concerns sources from which registered facilities may obtain dogs and cats and states that dogs that have been impounded under a municipal bylaw and have been in the pound for three days, exclusive of the day they were picked up and of holidays, shall not be destroyed if the pound has received a written request from a registered research facility.

The pound operator may keep the dog for as long as he deems appropriate, for sale as a pet and/or hunting or working purposes. It is only when the pound operator has decided to euthanize the dog that the question of it being requisitioned for research arises.

To be registered, research facilities are inspected regularly by ministry veterinarians to ensure that provisions of the act concerning proper care and use of animals are being met. Each research facility is required to appoint an animal care committee, which is responsible for co-ordinating and reviewing all procedures relating to the use of research animals. The committee prevents or stops any research that may cause or is causing unnecessary pain to any animal.

It is the ministry's position that animal research provides sufficient significant medical and scientific data to warrant its continuation. Accordingly, no amendments to the legislation are being considered at present.

CONTROL ORDERS

504. Mr. Charlton: Will the Minister of the Environment table the following information:

1. How many companies in Ontario have control orders applied to them? Can the ministry supply a list of the companies, the expiry dates of the control orders, an indication as to whether the control orders apply to air and water emissions, or both, and whether the ministry finds the company in compliance or not?

2. How many companies in the province are operating under program approvals? Can the ministry supply a list of these companies, the expiry dates of their program approvals, whether the program approvals apply to air and water emissions or both and whether the ministry finds the company in compliance or not? [Tabled June 26, 1984]

See sessional paper 217.

CROWN TIMBER PENALTIES

528. Mr. J. A. Reed: Would the Minister of Natural Resources table the names of the timber companies charged under the Crown Timber Act with regard to wasteful cutting practices for the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, and the amount of the fine? [Tabled August 29, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Pope: I have prepared tables (appendices I, II and III) for the fiscal years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84, showing the names of companies that have been charged with wasteful practices under the Crown Timber Act and the amount of the penalty charges.

Penalties Imposed under the Crown Timber Act for Wasteful Practices during 1981-82

Licensee	Penalty
Abitibi-Price Inc.	\$534
Buchanan Brothers (Ontario) Ltd.	192
F. Casavant	377
M. Forget	199
Henson and Tregonning	85
P. Poliquin	202
J. H. Poulin	440
I. McKay	668
McKenzie Forest Products Ltd.	65
Marcel Morais	304
Roy Lumber and Mining Timber Ltd.	213
Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd.	183
R. Vorlicek	44
Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	1,664
Weyerhaeuser of Canada Ltd.	265

Penalties Imposed under the Crown Timber Act for Wasteful Practices during 1982-83

Licensee	Penalty
Abitibi-Price Inc.	\$111.36
Florian Casavant	22.79
Chantier Co-op de Barker	29.22
Goulard Lumber (1971) Ltd.	98.60
Isabelle Brothers	25.17
Henry Johnson Timber Co. Ltd.	1,774.77
G. Kidder	191.43
Bois A. Lachance	117.84
Michael Papineau	204.28
Ben Poliquin	33.09

J. H. Poulin	128.82
Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd.	11.08
R. Vorlicek	64.43
Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	12,499.67
Weyerhaeuser of Canada Ltd.	3,307.81

Penalties Imposed under the Crown Timber Act for Wasteful Practices during 1983-84

Licensee	Penalty
Austin Lumber	\$64.60
Fred J. Beck	146.00
Boise Cascade Canada Ltd.	576.94
Chantier Co-op de Barker	50.26
Henson and Tregonning Log	269.34
Henry Johnson Timber Co.	221.49
Kearney Lumber Ltd.	244.00
R. Labelle	544.82
Phillip Martel	226.62
G. W. Martin Lumber Ltd.	726.54
Moonbeam Lumber	77.14
Phillip Perrault	48.01
Ben Poliquin	970.70
Henri J. Poulin	130.43
Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd.	22.72
Weldwood of Canada Ltd.	2,937.42
Weyerhaeuser of Canada Ltd.	105.71
3R Timber	230.57

FOREST REGENERATION

529. Mr. J. A. Reed: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide a table for 1982-83 and 1983-84 showing: (a) the total forest cutover area; (b) area not available for regeneration treatment; (c) area regenerated naturally; (d) area requiring regeneration treatment; (e) area regenerated artificially; and (f) area requiring treatment but not treated? [Tabled August 29, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Pope: The following information pertains to your inquiry for a table showing data for the 1982-83 and 1983-84 years:

(a) The answer for the 1982-83 year can be found in my ministry's published 1983 statistics, on page 13. The data for 1983-84 are not available at present.

(b) All cutover land is available for regeneration except that which is used for forest access.

(c) Virtually all land that has not been treated artificially will regenerate naturally.

(d) That land which required artificial treatment was treated.

(e) The answer for the 1982-83 year can be found in my ministry's published 1983 statistics, on page 14. The data for 1983-84 are not available at present.

(f) The answer to this item is given in (d) above.

530. Mr. J. A. Reed: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide a list of the size of cutovers that were approved for the years 1982-83 and 1983-84 within the licensed areas of: (1) Boise Cascade Canada Ltd.; (2) Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd.; (3) Abitibi Paper Co. Ltd.; (4) Kimberly Clark of Canada Ltd.; and Spruce Falls Power and Paper Co. Ltd.? Please provide the type of cutting method used, the location of the cutovers and the extent of any artificial and natural regeneration on these sites. [Tabled August 29, 1984]

Hon. Mr. Pope: Information on forestry activities of individual licensees under the Crown Timber Act remains confidential.

WOLF AND FOX BOUNTIES

531. Mr. J. A. Reed: Would the Minister of Natural Resources provide a list of the municipalities which have instituted a bounty on wolves and foxes and the value of the bounty and advise the House whether these bounties contravene the Game and Fish Act? [Tabled August 29, 1984]

See sessional paper 218.

RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

FORESTRY PRACTICES ON RESERVE

Sessional paper 148.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Ojibway Prairie Provincial Nature Reserve was acquired and regulated under the Provincial Parks Act in 1970 to preserve a fine example of native prairie which was widespread in extreme southwestern Ontario in presettlement times. Conversion of the land for agriculture and other land uses has nearly eliminated this diverse component of Ontario's natural heritage. Without positive conservation action, such as the creation of the nature reserves, Ontarians risk losing significant natural features such as the prairie.

In presettlement times, natural fires were an important factor in maintaining prairies. Prairie ecosystems have become highly adapted to fire which maintains health and vigour in prairie plants and eliminates competing nonprairie species which continually attempt to invade the community. So strong is this successional process that, in the absence of regular fires, shrubs and trees would quickly displace most of the prairie plants and animals, many of which are rare in Ontario and Canada and are of great interest to scientists, educators and naturalists.

Prior to its regulation as a provincial nature reserve, the Ojibway Prairie was maintained by fires often started by children. Following its acquisition, stricter surveillance virtually eliminated such fires, resulting in the rapid invasion of shrubs and trees on to the prairie. As a result, it became necessary to undertake active management, initially including the cutting and removal of undesirable shrubs and trees, followed by prescribed burns to restore and maintain the prairie.

Currently, management of the prairie calls for prescribed burns, weather conditions permitting, which have been authorized through an approved management plan. This plan has been endorsed by organizations such as the Canadian Botanical Association, which has encouraged the ministry to proceed with the prescribed burns. As well, the prescribed burns are recognized as a standard, necessary management practice among other agencies across North America which administer similar prairie nature reserves. At Ojibway, the burns are conducted by ministry specialists having lengthy experience in fire management, to eliminate any risk of hazard to neighbouring residents.

While I can sympathize with the local residents in their desire to preserve trees in such a sparsely forested region of the province, I am confident that the management of Ojibway Prairie is in the best interest of all Ontarians who cherish our natural heritage. Without active management at Ojibway, some very significant elements of Ontario's natural history would be at risk.

Finally, I should add that ministry staff in our Chatham office have extended themselves to inform local interest groups and residents about the value of the prairie and the need for prescribed burns to preserve it. I am sure that representatives from the Chatham office would be pleased to meet with the petitioners to explain the ministry's actions on this very significant ecological area.

HIGH WATER LEVELS

Sessional paper 149.

Hon. Mr. Pope: 1. The International Great Lakes Diversions and Consumptive Uses Study Board 1981 report to the International Joint Commission states that the net effect of all diversions into and out of the Great Lakes has been to "raise the mean levels of Lake Superior by 0.07 feet and Lake Ontario by 0.08 feet and to lower the mean levels of Lake Erie by 0.33 feet and Lake Michigan-Huron by 0.02 feet.

The net changes in Great Lakes levels and outflows resulting from diversions are small in relation to their natural ranges. On Lake Erie, the diversion effects are a lowering of the mean level by 0.33 feet and lowering of the high level by 0.32 feet. This results in a reduction of the erosion process.

Regulation plans in effect on the lakes are designed, to account for all diversions, to generally approximate the same levels that would have existed without diversions.

2. The "Lakeshore Protection Act" referred to is probably the Shoreline Property Assistance Act. The act was introduced by the Ministry of Natural Resources in 1973 and is now administered by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The act provides for loans to be provided by municipalities to shoreline property owners for the repair or protection of shores eroded or damaged by high water levels. Municipalities finance the loans by selling debentures to the province. Repayment by property owners is accomplished through municipal tax levies over a 20-year period.

The maintenance and repair of those works constructed under the program are the responsibility of the property owner.

CONTRACT WORKERS

Sessional paper 153.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: 1. The minimum wage is designed to provide a basic level of income for workers in Ontario. Adjustments are made periodically when the purchasing power of lower-paid workers is eroded by inflation, making their incomes fall behind the relative wage gains of other workers. At the same time, it is necessary to ensure that the employer's ability to compete and provide employment should not be jeopardized by setting the minimum wage at too high a level.

2. Catering, cleaning and maintenance services are provided in a number of offices, shopping complexes and public facilities by private entrepreneurs under contract with the owner or manager of such buildings. When such a contract expires, the incumbent will be required to compete with other service contractors for its renewal. Should the incumbent lose the contract, the employees may be displaced unless the successful bidder elects to offer them employment.

It has been alleged that the unionization of a service contractor will often lead to the firm's

displacement because of the uncompetitive wage rates it may be required to pay. Critics have variously suggested that either the Labour Relations Act or the Employment Standards Act should be amended to protect the jobs, wages and benefits of employees of service contractors.

3. It should be noted that the legislation in its present form does afford a certain degree of protection to such employees. If, for example, a unionized service contractor were to establish a nonunion company for the purpose of avoiding its bargaining obligations, the trade union could bring an application under subsection 1(4) of the Labour Relations Act for a declaration that the two separate entities constitute a single employer for the purposes of the act.

In addition, the Ontario Labour Relations Board has held that hiring practices of an incoming contractor which discriminate against the unionized employees of the displaced contractor may contravene the Labour Relations Act.

FACILITIES FOR LEARNING DISABLED

Sessional paper 155.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The Education Amendment Act, 1980 requires school boards to provide appropriate educational programs and services for all exceptional school-age children including those with learning disabilities.

School boards have been phasing in special education programs and services on a planned basis since 1981. Implementation will be completed by September 1, 1985. The planning process has not indicated that school boards will be unable to meet the requirements of the legislation by this date.

The Education Act is based upon the principle of equality of educational opportunity. It is counter to the spirit of the act to make specialized arrangements outside the public sector for selected groups of children.

The independent schools are not governed by the provisions of the Education Act and the accompanying regulations. It would be inappropriate to expend public funds to support programs which may be of widely varying quality and standards.

The public education system was developed to be responsive to local needs. Resolution of problems of implementation of policy should be encouraged to take place at the local level.

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No. 95

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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, October 18, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 18, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

REPORTS STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs on agencies, boards and commissions (No. 7).

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs on agencies, boards and commissions (No. 8).

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, when we adjourned a week ago I was wrapping up my comments concerning the work of the procedural affairs committee. I dwelled for some time on the Ontario government's crown corporation, Innovation Development for Employment Advancement. As we all remember, this crown corporation was put in place shortly before the 1981 election to give the people of Ontario the illusion that the government was actually going to do something if it received a new mandate. IDEA Corp. was part of the whole Board of Industrial Leadership and Development scenario which was to be the pool, not only for new ideas, but also for obtaining and preparing money to move Ontario forward in the high-technology industry.

When I was making my remarks to the Legislature, I said how impressed I was by the crown corporation's first president, Brian St. John. Only a few days after that, Brian St. John and the government of Ontario parted company. I certainly hope that a compliment from the opposition did not have anything to do with Mr. St. John's departure. I do not suspect it did. I suspect it had more to do with his aggressiveness in wanting to get things done and with the stale, tired ways of this government, which believes in more promotion, more public relations and more government advertising. It does not want anybody around who is actually going to do a lot of work and maybe get things done.

Those are my own personal ideas. It is not funny I used that word. I am sorry to see Mr. St.

John go. I believed him to be a hardworking and competent person.

I want to take five minutes to read to the House a report that appeared in a daily newspaper published here in Toronto only a few days ago. The only reason I read this report is that it is so relevant to the discussion we have been having, and I think all members will be interested. It starts out by saying:

"IDEA Corp., the flagship of Ontario's efforts to catch up to the era of high tech, appears to be foundering before ever really setting sail.

"IDEA's first president, Brian St. John, leaves today in what he says was a mutual agreement to part company. The government is paying St. John a year's salary—\$115,000—for the severance.

"'We didn't always see eye to eye and we chose to go separate ways,' says Industry Minister Frank Miller, to whom IDEA reports."

Just to stop there for a minute, that is the kind of statement we have come to expect from Conservative cabinet ministers when they pay such funds for severance pay, when we see a major part of the government's high-tech push floundering around. That is the kind of statement we have come to expect from the cabinet ministers. They did not see eye to eye and there is really nothing going on. We are very disappointed by that.

To continue: "High hopes surrounded St. John when he was hired by IDEA's provincially appointed board a little over two years ago. He holds a doctoral degree in oceanography, had experience in a publicly owned corporation as a former senior adviser on environmental affairs for Petro-Canada and was a former president of a technological venture subsidiary of the Teck mining corporation.

"But today IDEA is left with a major gap at the top and facing serious questions about whether it can yet fulfil its mandate.

"While the search for a new president goes on, IDEA's chairman, Ian Macdonald, former president of York University and former Deputy Treasurer of Ontario, says he will 'hold the fort.' But Macdonald has teaching duties at York. He also is chairman of the provincial inquiry into the financing of elementary and secondary education

and he sits on the boards of several major corporations.

"At any rate, Macdonald's reputation is as a manager, not as the type of real world businessman that IDEA now needs to turn things around.

"The IDEA story is difficult to unravel because no one seems precisely sure just what is going wrong. One bottom line is clear enough: IDEA cost the taxpayers almost \$4 million last year, most of that operating costs, but almost \$800,000 in losses due to collapsing ventures.

"On the other hand, Macdonald says, other investments now are coming on line and IDEA still may be able to meet its legislated obligation to become self-financing in five years. 'The long gestation is past and we have a lot more on the drawing board,' he says.

8:10 p.m.

"IDEA originally was part of the Progressive Conservatives' 1981 election platform—the BILD program of economic development for the decade. As part of BILD, technology centres were established to assist the auto parts, micro-electronics, robotics and biotechnology industries. At the apex of this network was IDEA, financed with \$107 million to promote early development of new technologies, act as a catalyst bringing new ideas together with industry and increase the supply of skilled manpower."

We know we are short some 70,000 positions as far as skilled manpower is concerned.

"IDEA's enabling legislation passed in October 1981. The board was appointed in March 1982. St. John became president in August 1982, and a business plan for future operations was passed by the cabinet ministers who ran BILD in January 1983.

"It was not many months before the flamboyant style at the top of IDEA began irritating senior people in government. The search for St. John and the vice-presidents"—and I know my colleague the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) will be very interested in hearing this—"was conducted by a headhunting firm at a cost of \$250,000." That is a lot of money to throw around. This government has a lot of money.

Mr. Ruston: That is a quarter of a million dollars.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, it was \$250,000.

"St. John was paid a salary that topped the Premier's." Of course, that is nothing. There are many public servants in the employ of this government who make more money than the Premier (Mr. Davis). The head of pretty well

every crown corporation in this province under the jurisdiction of this government makes more money than the Premier. We are not telling anyone new news.

I am sure Mr. Mulroney will take care of things as soon as he has a chance. We will find out what he does. One thing that we have seen Mr. Mulroney do is change the name from executive assistant to chief of staff and therefore be able to raise wages by \$40,000. That was really a neat trick, but I do not think he will be able to explain that to the taxpayers probably in the fashion he would like to.

It cost \$250,000 to find Mr. St. John and his vice-presidents. Then we found out, to continue, "Boardroom chairs in IDEA's headquarters at the bottom of Yonge Street are rumoured to have cost \$2,000 each." They are probably more comfortable than even your chair, Mr. Speaker.

"The style added to the doubts that Miller and Larry Grossman developed over what IDEA was doing with its mandate."

This is where I find the article somewhat objectionable. This style caused the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) to have some doubts. Frankly, I do not accept that. We have other crown corporations in this province under the jurisdiction of this government that are far more flamboyant and willing to spend the money of the taxpayers than IDEA Corp. has ever been, but we never seem to hear about those particular crown corporations from the Minister of Industry and Trade or the Treasurer.

My colleague reminds me of the Ontario Waste Management Corp. which has a highly paid chairman. It also is very favourable towards comfortable chairs. I am told it paid somewhere between \$800 to \$1,000 for the chairs it uses in its boardroom.

Mr. Newman: How much did ours cost?

Mr. Mancini: That is a good question.

We are all aware of the Ontario Energy Corp. and that we had to buy \$650 million worth of an oil company just so Malcolm Rowan would have a job to go to. That is really flamboyant. If we want to talk about things being flamboyant, that is probably the most flamboyant thing this government and any of its crown corporations have ever done.

Anyway, these few interesting facts that have been revealed about the IDEA Corp. point not so much to the failure of Mr. St. John in trying to carry out the government's mandate, but I suspect point more to the government's failure to explain to Mr. St. John exactly what it wanted of

him and exactly how he was to carry out his responsibilities and how he was to raise this money.

I do not see anywhere any evidence of the Minister of Industry and Trade, or the Treasurer in particular, using their clout to obtain firms interested in creating large pools of money for the creation of new technology. If anyone at all should have influence, surely it should be the Treasurer of Ontario.

I am told that when the Treasurer of Ontario was the Minister of Industry and Trade he had very lengthy lists of all the corporations in Ontario and some of the smaller companies. Some people say he created these lists so he could tap them for financial contributions for his election campaign. Frankly, I do not believe that.

I believe he created these lists, or they already were available, so the government of Ontario could keep track of exactly what was going on in different sectors of the economy. With that information already available, and then with the creation of the IDEA Corp., it should not have been very difficult for the government to use its huge clout, its \$25 billion a year interest in our economy here in Ontario, to encourage investors to create significant pools of money to bring forward new technology.

New technology in the agricultural industry is greatly needed. New technology in the auto parts industry is needed. I could go on and name other sectors. That has not happened. The government has now let the president of IDEA Corp. go with the very flimsy explanation given by the Minister of Industry and Trade. He stated, "We did not always see eye to eye and we chose to go separate ways." When we realize that Mr. St. John was able to obtain a very lucrative settlement, we have to wonder under what terms Mr. St. John did leave the presidency of this company.

I was able to take quite a bit of the Legislature's time last week when we were discussing the matters that came before the standing committee on procedural affairs. I certainly do not want to take any time repeating what I said last week. I just want to say I know one of the reasons the Legislature is jam-packed tonight and all the members are here is that they have always found the reports of the standing committee on procedural affairs to be very thoughtful, very precise and in most cases very nonpolitical.

I will end my remarks with those comments, and I am very glad to await the comments of my friend the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh).

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate having the opportunity to make some remarks on these two reports of the standing committee on procedural affairs. It is an interesting exercise to go through these agency reviews. I am an advocate of the concept that probably the best thing we do is notify them that we are going to review them. That in itself brings about an awareness that they are agencies of the government of Ontario, that they do operate on taxpayers' money and that they do have a mandate and a job to do.

We are beginning to encounter in the committee a bit of a problem. Very simply, there are some of us who look at agencies of the government that are not very active and do not do very much. Then we run into some difficulty with other members of the committee who say, "They do not do anything, but they do not do any harm either, so let them go." We have had some interesting discussions in the committee in the last little while over agencies that, it is pretty clear to us, have not done very much in the last year or so, have met maybe once in two years and do not have a great jurisdiction.

It is pretty clear to me that there is not a crying need to have agencies like that. The recurring argument seems to be that because they do not do any harm they should continue in operation. I am not an advocate of that. If we have agencies with a mandate, they ought to be doing something. The fact that they are not doing anybody any harm is hardly an argument to continue their existence. I know there is a political reason for keeping them in place, but it is not quite right to have an agency of the province that has allegedly something or other to do with agriculture and never has to meet, never has to do anything, but just has to be there for ever and a day.

8:20 p.m.

I want to pick out a few of the agencies tonight, and I should note in passing that this committee in a public way has reviewed slightly more than 60 agencies of the government, which is more public review than those agencies have ever had in their lives.

While there are not exactly a lot of strident recommendations contained in these two reports, at least a committee of the Legislature has taken the time to review the workings of an agency and has offered the agency an opportunity to come to Queen's Park and tell the members of the Legislature what it is doing. We have had the opportunity on a few occasions to visit agencies when they actually run a facility such as a bridge,

a park or whatever. We have had a brief opportunity to see that side of the agenda.

I make reference to the seventh report initially because there are some agencies that deserve mention. The first is an old hobby-horse of mine, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. I am constantly perplexed by the notion that in this society there is virtually no limit to the amount of money we will spend to incarcerate somebody. The judicial system seems to operate without an adding machine of any kind. It is even wrong to ask the question, "How much will this trial cost?" It is all somehow beyond the territory of proper scrutiny. However, when it comes to providing some funding for people who are injured in the course of a crime, the budget gets tight.

The members of the committee were struck by the fact that there are people suffering serious injuries because of some criminal activity who are getting rather picayune assessments from the board. The board made its usual argument that it only gets so much money and that there is only so much to go around. Those who suffer injury because of criminal activity may only get token awards, but the only reason they are token is that there is no more money in the till.

We hear this argument every time we deal with somebody who is poor, with an injured worker or with a single-parent family. The restraint system seems to apply immensely well, neatly and tightly, to everybody who falls in those categories. I am afraid I have to add that anybody who has been to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is faced with the same restraint.

During the course of the hearings, the committee came across some things the members perhaps had not thought about; for example, all the anguish a family suffers when there is a rape or a murder in a family. There is all the mental anguish and real physical pain. There is all the expense to the family having to do with lawyers, medical care, psychiatric treatment, adjustment and loss of income, virtually none of which is recognized by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

One of the things we talked about a great deal, and it is in the report, is that this concept has to be given a great deal more attention by both the federal government and the province. This may sound a bit unfair, but oddly enough when Ontario wanted to hold a seminar on victims of crime, when it was deemed to be appropriate for the government to hold a seminar of that kind, it went over to the Sutton Place Hotel and had what I am told was a rather grand bash.

The members who know me know that I have absolutely nothing against grand bashes. I rather like them. However, it seems to me to be totally inappropriate when one is discussing something such as this, and admitting as was so evident before the committee that this government feels it cannot afford to pay adequate compensation to victims of crime, to go over to the Sutton Place and host a great conference on the victims of crime. That conference could have been held a block nearer here at much less expense. However, that seems to be the way of the world these days.

One of the things this review exercise does for the members is that if you do not happen to have an interest in an area that is served by one of these agencies, it is a bit of an eye-opener. You find out who these people are. You find out what the father of the Treasurer, for example, is doing these days, how much he gets paid and all of that.

When you get down to the actual work of the agency, you also find that the compensation offered by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is getting better but still nowhere meets the need. There are whole classifications of compensation that should be paid, and we all admit they should be paid, but there is not much more than passing sympathy for those families.

It is difficult. Having had some personal experience in dealing with families that have been disrupted because of some criminal activity, I know they are tough people to deal with. They are angry at the world; they are mad; they are not always the most rational people. But then again, they and their families have been dragged through our whole judicial system, usually involving the loss of the life, for example, of a son or a daughter in the family. That is a terrible experience for a family to have to go through, and added to that is the tremendous financial impact it has on the victim of the crime.

More and more I am coming around to the point of view that if we cannot do it the way I want to have it done, at least we ought to spend as much money on the victims of the crime as we do on the criminals themselves. It seems to me that would be a fair balance.

In this report there is one other interesting little agency before us, a little group of folks called the Law Society of Upper Canada, which some of us refer to as the most powerful union in the country. This group, at least initially, was not very sure it wanted to appear before a committee of the Ontario Legislature; it felt somehow this was not proper and it did not have to report to us.

A few letters were exchanged and the Law Society of Upper Canada did appear. Quite frankly, I do not think it found it to be a mean and vindictive experience. I think it found that there was an exchange of views. It did not accept all the recommendations of the committee, but I think it saw the law society's role in life in a somewhat different way from the way members of the committee did, and I think that was fair.

The member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) rather tore a strip off them from time to time, which is probably refreshing for them, but I did not notice anybody bleeding too badly as he went out the door. It seemed to me the group was intact and responded to our recommendations in a way in which it saw fit.

We also reviewed the Ontario Cancer Treatment and Research Foundation. I think these recommendations are interesting because they reflect the difference between a committee of the Legislature looking at an agency and the agency talking about its own duties. I think in our own gentle way we pointed out that there are other considerations you have to think about when you set up an agency like that.

We are all in favour of cancer treatment; there is no question about that. I think we did manage to bring to light some concerns we had as members from different parts of Ontario. The foundation was not saying no to it, it just had not thought about it before; so it was a useful exchange from that standpoint.

The last two agencies are the interesting ones, because the contrast between them is quite startling. The first one is an agency of the government called the Ontario Manpower Commission. When it came before us, I was quite impressed with its personnel, Dr. Wilson and his staff, the kind of reports it did with the kind of resources it has, its place in government and its contact with all the other ministries. Here was Ontario creating an agency that had a lot going for it: a lot of power, a lot of momentum and all the contacts in the world.

The only question I had at the end was about what good it does. At the end of all its work, in which it projects where the jobs will be, where the need will be in the marketplace, what kind of training has to be done, what you do after you create a product and all that kind of stuff in terms of what the manpower needs really will be—we had an interesting discussion about whether it should be “manpower,” “personpower” or whatever—the only shoe that is missing is the final one: how does this connect with the government's policy?

After the manpower commission lays out all the studies about how one should train people, how does it make any real difference in the way things are done around here? In other words, how do you go from the theoretical study done by the manpower commission to the actual need, which is probably carried out in community colleges, universities or secondary schools? There were some problems there.

8:30 p.m.

The contrast was with the Ontario Status of Women Council, which came in during the same review. There was the Ontario Manpower Commission, with the resources to do its job, with a fairly substantial salary for the person who chairs the commission full-time and with a big board of reference from labour, management, technical people and all that. Then there was the Ontario Status of Women Council, with a part-time position. At that time Sally Barnes was chairing the council. Shortly thereafter, she decided to pack it in. A bit of conflict was developing between the new Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) and the personnel there.

It was an agency that had none of those resources and certainly could have been very useful to the government, to the Legislature and to women in Ontario by establishing backup information on such things as equal pay for work of equal value. It very much wanted to do that kind of thing, but it did not have the resources. It met occasionally on a part-time basis and had a few staff people.

There was a stark comparison between the two agencies, with one being given a kind of preferred status. In that case, it was: “Spare no expense. Get the job done. Hire as many people as you need.” There was a little problem with the publishing of reports the government did not want published, but eventually even they got out. Then there was the Ontario Status of Women Council, almost reflecting that the government was not too happy about this. It would like to have these women meet once in a while, but not often enough ever to cause anybody any difficulty.

The contrast between the two agencies was quite remarkable.

I want to move to the eighth report. I want to point to one case where we actually did manage to convince everybody that an agency ought to be sunsetted when we talked about the Board of Visitors of Homewood Sanitarium, Guelph. By the end of that exercise I think we had convinced just about everybody involved that there was no

need for that agency and that everything it did could be handled in a slightly different way.

We went through the Ontario Board of Parole. It was another interesting one. One of the things the agency review does fairly well is provide people with a forum to say what they think is right and wrong about what their agency does. When we did the Ontario Board of Parole, a lot of little conflicts erupted, pointing out rather nicely that it is awkward to have a parole board functioning in a ministry that has a lot of other things in its hopper, so that the parole board has to compete for such things as access to computer time, access to records and clerks to fill out the records. There are day-by-day practical problems and then there are conflict of interest problems. It is awkward to have it in that ministry, and we made a recommendation that it be switched to a different ministry.

In the course of that, we discovered there were some problems with such things as day passes and temporary absence programs. There is at least a potential that something which starts out as a good idea, such as a temporary absence program, can turn out to be a revolving-door process. Many of us are concerned that our judicial system does not always do its job the way we think it ought to be done or that things are pretty loose when we get down to the prison system, the parole system and the temporary absence program.

Perhaps there is a bit of an explanation there as to precisely why things are going a little amiss in our society. We trust that Solicitors General, Attorneys General, Ministers of Correctional Services and all those people have a tight hand on all this and that the rules are clearly spelled out. We found out that they are not.

Something like a temporary absence program has lots of loopholes in it. People can be sentenced to jail by a court, move into the jail and someone in the jail—we were not quite able to determine exactly who that was—can overrule the workings of a court. The judge can say, “I sentence this person to 16 months in one of our institutions.” He goes off there and some person who is faceless and nameless, a bureaucrat at the jail, can say: “We are going to put you out on a temporary absence program. You can sign in once a day, or we may make you come back here and stay during the evening, but we are going to put you out on the street again.”

It seemed to me that we had an agency of the government working at cross-purposes with the whole judicial process. There is not much encouragement to sort that out, because I do not

suppose the judge has the opportunity to follow up on what happens to everybody he has sentenced. He probably assumes that when he sends people off to jail, they stay in jail. Of course, that is not true at all. Nor is it true that if you are denied one of those temporary absences there is much of an appeal process. They are not breaking rules, because there are no rules. We expressed some concern about that. There was a bit of discussion in the Legislature about it. I am not sure the problem was resolved but at least it came to light.

We went through a number of review boards and hearing boards in this report. There was the Social Assistance Review Board, where we were impressed with the number of problems it had and the way it was trying to sort out those problems.

We went through the Game and Fish Hearing Board, which we discovered was an interesting exercise, because it is a board that is set up to hear things but not to make decisions. It is a little difficult to understand how a board could be set up to hear problems around game and fish regulations but not to let it make decisions. The decisions are made by the minister, who was not there to hear the case in the first place. It is an interesting situation.

It is like having one group be the judge and sit in court to hear all the evidence, but the jury is not present; then the jury comes in six months later and makes the decision. It is hard to figure out how it does it. None the less, although there was a bit of an attempt to sunset the Game and Fish Hearing Board, a problem occurred around fishing quotas and licences and therefore it was not possible to do that.

We also looked at the Nursing Homes Review Board. It is a little hard to figure out that one. It is chaired by Peter Magda, a fellow from Oshawa whom I happen to know. I know how Peter Magda got appointed chairman of that one because I know who Peter Magda is. He is a very nice, young, Tory lawyer in Oshawa. He seems to have at least two or three of the required qualifications to hold a job like that.

It was interesting because it was a review board that apparently did not have very much to review. In the course of our deliberations, the committee pointed out that there are lots of things about nursing homes that need to be reviewed, such as the quality of care. If one has a complaint, how does one do that? How does the dispute get mediated? It is beyond the board's jurisdiction; it only reviews the licences of these places. We pointed out some things that we, as

members of the Legislature, thought ought to be reviewed. We made some recommendations about that.

We went through the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario, which was very interesting. I suppose it was a lesson for those of us who are not rural members and who do not have a working knowledge of crop insurance. Again, if I may say so, it is one of the agencies which has almost sacred status, at least with the members who are from rural constituencies. That probably means it does some good for some people, which is not to say it is perfect.

There are some matters I want to talk about in somewhat more depth. One of them is the next one on the list. It is the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation. For a long time now, I have had little axes to grind with these folks. It is not that I am against the kind of research work they have done, because I am not.

I am going to give the committee full marks for credit. I brought up my concerns about how certain press releases are put out by the addiction research people; how I thought they clearly knew the information they were putting out was not inaccurate but could be—how shall I phrase this?—misinterpreted by those who might be a little overzealous to write the hot news story of the day.

During the course of our discussions in the committee hearings and subsequently, people from the addiction research foundation took the time to come to chat with me about some of the problems they had in putting out this information. They have used a slightly different format, or at least have made the attempt. When the addiction research foundation puts out news releases these days, the attempt is being made to provide enough background information so the information is not only accurate as put out but also will be interpreted accurately by those who write news stories about them.

Perhaps the work of the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation will be a little bit better because somebody took the time to raise a complaint with them and they took the time and effort to deal with that complaint in a nice, calm, rational way.

8:40 p.m.

I want to make a couple other remarks about addiction research because I have received some letters about some of the recommendations, and I think some other members have too. There have been lots of people studying addiction research for quite a while now. Not all the studies that have been done on addiction research have been

completely implemented or given the papal seal, so to speak, by the ministry. However, I think they are aware that, like most of the agencies, for a long time now they have had several problems around money.

The addiction research foundation is trying to do a lot of things. It has a very ambitious schedule. The consultants who studied its structure, and I am sure its internal people and certainly the committee, noted it is pretty hard trying to do all those things at the same time. There was a consensus among committee members that perhaps it was time for the addiction research foundation to focus a little more clearly on what its role was because it really does a multitude of things.

The people here in Toronto are doing research and have developed and maintained a worldwide reputation for good research in that field and they publish information extensively. Sometimes I quarrel with the way they publish it and sometimes I quarrel with the results of their research, but I give them full marks for having developed that reputation and maintained it.

They also do a great deal of field work and they have a series of regional offices around Ontario. The committee was concerned, and some members of the committee were downright agitated, about the regional offices of the addiction research people. I do not share that concern, but to be fair about it, to put it on the record, the concern was raised in the committee during the course of the hearings.

The addiction research people had an opportunity during the committee hearings, and subsequently, to put another side to the argument, to say they need regional offices. I sat through the hearings and my assessment may be a little bit harsh, but I think it is fair. They had the opportunity to defend the system of regional offices and I did not hear them doing that very well.

There were lots of brochures at the back. We were asking them: "What do the regional offices do? What kind of function is performed there? Are you performing a function that is not performed by anybody else in your community?" The addiction research people did not put up a very spirited defence, to be polite about it.

In the end, the committee's recommendation on that was to refocus again, along the line of the consultant's report done on the addiction research foundation. The committee's recommendation, in essence, is to focus on the research part. We all came to the consensus that this is what they do well and that should be their prime

focus. Perhaps the responsibility for starting up new programs, servicing people with various problems in communities, ought to be phased out by the addiction research foundation and done by staff people and programs run by other agencies.

One of the things we recognize in most of our communities, for example, is it really does not matter what the topic is, whether one is talking about cigarette smoking, drug abuse, alcoholism, stress problems, child abuse or any of the social problems that are around, if we want to restrict it to things that might be solely the domain of the addiction research foundation, that is not hard to do. There are lots of agencies out there pumping out information, setting up new programs, bringing them back in.

One of the things that concerns me no end is that I have lots of agencies with good ideas and no money. It seems to me, as we go through this process of trying to get them established, we are having a very difficult time getting them on a solid financial basis. I think in part that has been an ongoing problem at the addiction research foundation, and the committee tried to address that.

What concerns me a little bit is that the review was done some time ago and the report has been out for some time. I am getting letters now saying somebody wants to shut down all the regional offices. I did not hear the committee say that. I know there were individuals, such as the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), who were a little adamant on this point. I do not want to misquote him, but he certainly had a lot more concerns about regional offices than I did and I think than most of the members of the committee had.

The committee in its recommendation did not say, "Shut them all down, fire all the people and do away with that." The committee addressed itself to the problem of duplication. The committee sat in session and listened for the addiction research people to make their case to keep their regional operations going. I did not hear a very good case being made. So we did make a recommendation that I suppose members could say lends itself to being interpreted in that way.

Let me read the recommendation. "The Ministry of Health and the district health councils accept responsibility for ensuring the provision of alcohol and drug treatment services in local communities, and that the foundation phase out its local or regional offices."

There is a lot of latitude there. It is hardly one of our basic, black and white, "shut 'em down and put 'em out of business" statements. It raises the concern, which I think is legitimate, that

there is some duplication out there. There would be nothing wrong with that if we could fund all those duplicate services, but we cannot. It would be fine if they were all doing a good job that could be put together on a co-ordinated basis and they could all survive, but that is not happening.

I think the committee looked fairly at what we saw as a problem in our own communities, the problem with the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation around funding. It said somebody is going to have to get this in sharper focus; somebody is going to have to make some decisions.

We noted with some concern that things such as health councils are in the same boat. I still support the concept of the district health councils; they were put in place to co-ordinate this kind of work, to gather and disseminate information, to provide services and to identify where there is a need.

The plain fact of life is that if there were no addiction research regional offices a lot of detoxification centres, for example, would never have started and a lot of programs for drug rehabilitation would never have started.

There are crying needs in many communities. In mine, for example, which is probably one of the most organized communities one would find in Ontario, most of the social needs of the community have been identified. One will find some group somewhere in my community trying to address itself to that problem.

The ones we get under way live hand to mouth trying to get their financial houses in order. Most of them are scrambling now for contracts with one of the ministries for bed services so they can allocate six beds in a hostel to the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Getting a contract to do that solves part of their financial problem in the short term, but they do not have any long-term funding. We have to sort all these priorities out and begin to fund these things properly.

I am sure people from the Oshawa office of the foundation would tell us quickly there is one thing we do not have in Oshawa that has to do with addiction. We have a place called Destiny Manor, where women who have alcoholism problems can go on the way back, a kind of rehabilitation program. We have a place for battered women. We have a detoxification centre for men, but we do not have a detoxification facility for women. We do it in a makeshift way, but we do not have a facility designed to resolve that problem. There is a need there.

In many of our communities we have pretty serious drug problems. We do not have a good handle on how serious they are in our high schools. I do not think we have a good reporting mechanism. I know we do not have really good rehabilitation programs, but we are aware of that.

The sad fact is that in a theoretical way, the regional offices of addiction research could be cut off tomorrow and many of us as members would probably not even know what happened. As it happens, I know the personnel who work in my regional office, so they would probably be on the phone to me tomorrow morning.

The difficulty is there would be a vacancy in my community right away. There would be no one there to provide that kind of service. In our recommendations we say, first, before we talk about phasing out these regional offices or doing anything such as that, we must see that the function is fulfilled.

It would not hurt me in the least if everybody at addiction research said, "It is very nice for the procedural affairs committee to recommend the phasing out of those regional offices, but no one else is in place to do the dirty deed, to do the work on the ground."

I have not heard the Ministry of Health, the district health councils, the Ministry of Community and Social Services or any other body say it is prepared to take up that role in various communities.

It is the kind of recommendation that in hindsight we may have worded in a slightly different way so as not to hurt people's feelings. Then again, I am an advocate of the idea that if one does not say something once in a while one will never hurt anybody's feelings, but one will never get anything done either. Maybe a lot of harm has not been done.

I noticed the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) has not acted on this or any other recommendation. He has not acted in a formal way on the task force recommendations on the addiction research foundation and how it should be organized. There certainly is lots of room for interpretation and for discussion.

I do not think anyone on the committee took the position that we absolutely chop off the regional offices. There were some members more agitated than I about the functioning or nonfunctioning of the regional offices, but I did not hear anybody get to that extreme.

8:50 p.m.

There is one other area I want to concentrate on tonight, that is some problems we ran into when we reviewed the Innovation Development for

Employment Advancement Corp., or IDEA Corp. I am not upset over how much the chairs cost. I would like to have one of those chairs. I would sell it and buy five poor people a good chair, one that did not cost more than a couple of hundred bucks.

What is of more concern to me is that this corporation, like a number of other ideas, needs to be scrutinized a little more carefully than it is, a little more regularly; perhaps by us, perhaps by another committee of the Legislature. There are a lot of them being cranked up from time to time. To be fair and honest, and no one will be shocked by this, there are a lot of agencies being cranked up around election time here in Ontario. When they are announced they are wonderful things; we all know that. They will create thousands of jobs; we all know that.

They will produce shiny brochures such as the one put out by the IDEA Corp. I am a little shocked by the colour of this brochure, which is a deep Tory blue with silver. I am not sure that it is actual silver, but it sure looks like actual silver used for printing.

It was an interesting review. The committee had an opportunity to be entertained by Brian St. John, who has been president of the IDEA Corp. He certainly could sell one an Edsel on a cold winter day. The gentleman in question knew his stuff. Ian Macdonald is the chairman and he knows his stuff. Many of us know him from other jobs he has taken on for the government of Ontario. In other words, we had some prime beef there. These people know what they are doing.

They sure know how to spend money. It turns out that after about three years of—we really do not know what—but three years passed between the great announcement and the actual production of something we could identify as an IDEA Corp. We really did not get much of an explanation of what the IDEA Corp. is all about.

We got a real neat slide show, for which we should all be immensely grateful. We got a good outline of how it is set up. We got rather less than a total outline of how it spent all the money it has spent so far. I was not left with a clear impression that a great many jobs had been created by the IDEA Corp. I was left with the impression we should all hope, having spent that kind of money, some day that will come true.

We ran into an interesting snag as we went through this, because there is an unusual mix at work here. The IDEA Corp. takes people's tax dollars and works them over into the private sector. Many of us on the committee, myself particularly on this one, thought, "Wait a minute,

this is using tax dollars in a way that subsidizes the private sector." What intrigued me about it, of course, is that this is corporate socialism. This is using tax dollars to develop the private sector.

Mr. Gordon: Socialism.

Mr. Breagh: Yes, socialism; right.

The difficulty is that normally when we took tax dollars and put them into some agency of the government, we would say: "Okay, but now you will have to be accountable to the public. You will have to come before a public accounts committee or a committee of the Legislature. You will have to publish an annual report and show everybody exactly how you spend all these tax dollars."

When we got into the IDEA Corp., however, we ran very quickly into an impasse, because the IDEA Corp. puts money into private sector companies and joint venture companies with private and public funds in them. It had entered into agreements, because it is in fields of new technology, where if one publishes all the wonderful things one is developing one loses the corporate advantage when they become public knowledge. Anybody could read one's report and run out and make the new widget and make millions of dollars before someone else does.

We came into some conflict in the committee, because I am an advocate of the view that any time one uses tax dollars one ought to be accountable and the people have a right to know how those tax dollars have been spent.

For example, if one looks at the annual report of the IDEA Corp., one will see we are not talking small potatoes here. The funding that is going into these corporations is on the large side. The potential for further funding under this same technique is immense because we are talking for the most part about high-tech products, which are not cheap to produce. They are high risk in most instances. It is going to cost millions of dollars to put a product on the market without ever being really sure of very much in return.

We do not have much knowledge of what other IDEA corporations—or whatever they are called—do in Japan, Germany, France, the United States or Great Britain, but there is the opportunity here at the very least to lose a potful on this kind of concept, and I found Mr. St. John and Mr. Macdonald refreshingly frank on this point. There is a clear conflict of interest when one takes public money and socks it into the private sector. It is not clear who knows how this money is being spent and what is really being developed because, of course, there is corporate secrecy here. For their own reasons in the

corporate world they do not want to tell people their business, and I understand that.

I do not think the committee really resolved that conflict. We explored it slightly; we explored the idea. For example, we were asking questions in the committee, and in a very polite way Mr. Macdonald and Mr. St. John said, "We cannot tell you that." Of course, normally when a legislative committee runs into somebody who is testifying as a witness who says, "I cannot tell you that," or "I will not tell you that," or "I do not want to tell you that," or "It is part of our agreement that you cannot be told that information," legislative committees tend to get a little huffy and start talking about Speaker's warrants and about making people appear under oath before them.

But there is a question there that must be addressed at some point, because this is all the rage these days. I do not care whether you are a Tory, a Socialist or even a Liberal—there are 40 of those in the country, I am told—whatever stripe you are, the current rage in politics in the world is this kind of joint venture activity: joint venture within Ontario, across Canada, around the world; and we have subsequently reviewed other agencies that are expanding this.

There are a couple of cautions I would like to put on all of this. I think the issue of what we called in our report legislative access to information has to be explored. I know there will be a commitment to this IDEA concept and to whatever it will be called for its inception in the next election; I have no doubt that more IDEAs will be put forward during the course of the next election campaign, that more things of this nature will be set up.

One of the problems when the Premier or whoever cranks up the election machinery and cranks out the promises about how they will create jobs does so, is that, after the election, somebody has to figure out what these agencies are supposed to do. It was pretty clear with the IDEA Corp. that it took about three years to figure out exactly what the IDEA Corp. was going to be. It did not know; the government did not know; nobody knew.

The next stage of the problem is that when one actually gets to the point where one hands out money and enters into agreements with the private sector on joint ventures, the first major problem is that there is no accountability to the members of this Legislature.

As I tried to put it in committee, the problem is that I cannot win in this one. If I go back to my constituency and somebody asks, "Did you

review the IDEA Corp.?" I say, "Oh yes, we did." "How does it spend its money?" I am supposed to say, "I cannot tell you that, because I do not know." He says, "You dummy, did you not even ask?" I say: "Yes, I asked, but people at the IDEA Corp. said they cannot tell me; they will not tell me. They have signed an agreement with somebody in the private sector that says it is going to be done secretly."

The real problem is that I cannot fulfil my duty as an elected member of the Legislature, supposedly perusing the activities of the IDEA Corp., if I accept the notion that it can enter into agreements that are private. If it wants to use its own money, that is fine; no problem there. But it is not; it is using tax dollars to enter into agreements that require secrecy, and there is not really a good way to cut this type of expenditure.

When we think back in recent history even, about how governments react in this situation, we have never done this before—at least not very much. For the most part this kind of conflict usually had to do with war efforts, and the secrecy factor was understandable to everybody. We entered into some agreement to build a munitions factory and we were not going to tell our enemies what kind of bombs we were making, where the munitions factory was, how much it was going to cost, how many people it would employ or what kind of new technology it was utilizing at that moment.

9 p.m.

But there is a recommendation in this report to which I think we will be paying more and more attention as the year goes on, which is very simply that the concepts that are put forward in the IDEA Corp. around entering into joint ventures and private sector funding with public money are in direct conflict with legislative accountability. We did not resolve it in the committee and I vowed to chase it around the block several more times as we go through other agency reviews, but it is a very complicated one.

I am the first to admit that in this kind of activity, to look at the kind of high-technology work it is doing, it is not possible to say, "Well, we will have them publish all the information about the new product they are developing." That would certainly destroy any potential they had to put that product on the market except at great losses. In other words, it would be asking the public once again totally to subsidize the research part of this at a time when some of that money could be earned back in the private sector. It would be destroying that concept entirely.

In my view there is a grave danger, with things such as the IDEA Corp., of getting into loss situations. Dramatic and large ticket items going down the tubes, so to speak, is a problem. There is this matter of conflict about legislative access to information. That conflict will have to be resolved.

The basic reason it has to be resolved is that all of this stuff is very much in vogue. Whenever the convention is held and the new leader emerges from the other side, I am sure the flags will be out waving again. I do not know whether it will be IDEA 85 or what the new name will be. I am unsure who will get this appointment, but I know there will be something like this cranked up once again, because it is a tool of modern government; but it has within it basic structural problems that must be resolved.

I will wind up with a couple of general comments about these two reports. The committee does its work reasonably well. I do not have any illusions. For example, we have a researcher, John Eichmanis, who has worked for some time on the committee. He does the yeoman's work of putting together the briefing material, visiting and talking to the agencies prior to the reviews. If he worked for the Ministry of Natural Resources there would probably be about 200 people underneath him cranking out paper, writing up reports, making telephone calls and doing the itinerary. He does it on his own and he does a good job for the committee. It is not easy for one person to try to serve a total committee to get that agenda out. He has done that and done it consistently.

The members of the committee have been pretty faithful, with one or two exceptions, about setting aside the partisan hat when they enter into reviewing these agencies. We are on the right track. Again, as I said initially, one of the biggest things is simply somebody is paying attention to these agencies these days, and that is particularly useful.

We run across some situations where the agency is perking away there doing not very much, including not very much harm to anybody, and we try to bring that to people's attention. We make a few little controversial recommendations from time to time and we put them in front of the Legislature for debate. That is interesting.

Of these two reports before us this evening, there are two or three really significant things which have to be addressed. There cannot be an agency such as the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation with no funding.

If the government wants them to do that kind of a job, it has an obligation to provide them with the financial resources or to indicate clearly ahead of time that there are other ways to recruit financial resources and make that work.

I am not an advocate of closing the regional offices or anything such as that, but I think it is true that an agency such as that needs proper funding. If we are going to have an agency such as the Ontario Status of Women Council, there is no sense having one on a part-time doing half of the work and letting the other half go basis. If we are going to have something such as that, it should be designed to have status. It should be designed to have, for example, a full-time chairperson and it deserves the same status that something such as the Ontario Manpower Commission had.

There is no question about it in my mind. That is precisely what our committee was talking about when it conducted the review. That has not happened. I suppose there will be lots of reasons it has not happened or why it will not happen, but if one wanted to begin with equal pay for work of equal value, one would take someone such as the new chairperson for the Ontario Status of Women Council and see that the per diems were the same as those of all of the other agencies out there. One would put that measure of fairness in there and give them access to resources.

As I have said on a number of occasions, I am a believer in agency reviews. I wish we could do more of it and I wish we could do it tougher, so to speak. I wish we had a few more resources at our disposal to conduct reviews of agencies. But I am happy that at least somebody is beginning the process, and the process is one which the public can come and watch. They have not shown an inclination to do so in large numbers, but at least they have the opportunity. It is okay that these public reviews are a matter of public record.

I am not upset by the idea that we may not have a great vote tonight. The bells will ring and all the members will show up. I pay a small compliment to the government, which I do not do very often. I am quite pleased that in all the agency reviews the ministries have been reasonably faithful in at least replying to the recommendations of the procedural affairs committee.

I am not always convinced we make the proper recommendations. I have no illusions that we do thorough research into every single avenue of work done by these agencies, but at least the government has consistently and regularly given us the courtesy of a reply. When it has been able to accommodate the recommendations of the

committee, it has done so. We should further develop that aspect of our parliamentary system in Ontario so that all our committees can review legislation, estimates and the workings of the ministries in the same way this little committee reviews agencies.

This place will work better. This place will be a little more relevant. The people out there who foot the bill for all this nonsense will from time to time get good value for their money. We have reviewed some big agencies in these two reports and we have reviewed some little ones. Some spent a lot of money and some did not spend very much. We have made some recommendations. The government will be well served if it pays some attention to them. The process is probably as important as any of the reports ever put forward.

I am pleased to have been able to serve on the committees that reviewed these two sets of agencies. I hope in the future I will have a chance to do the same thing with other agencies because my general impression is that even the agencies reviewed by the committee are pretty happy. They will feel it was a positive experience by the time the whole thing is over.

I think the committee has been fair in its recommendations, and that is not always easy. I do not think there is anything here that is really going to upset the applecart. On the other hand, there is enough that points out areas of some concern to the committee. There are recommendations about disclosure and about access to information. I would predict they will be the hottest political items in the foreseeable future because problems exist here in Ontario with the IDEA Corp. and in a number of other agencies in this country.

I appreciate the opportunity to speak in the debate this evening. I look forward to continuing to play a part in reviewing these agencies.

Mr. Watson: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to rise and speak on these reports, particularly on the eighth report at this particular time and on this particular date.

It was the third Thursday in October, although the actual date was October 19, six years ago tonight about this time, that the results of the by-election in Chatham-Kent became known and I became a member of this Legislature.

As I sat here tonight, I realized the member for Oshawa was taking his time and I thought, my goodness, I am going to stand up about the exact hour.

I would like to echo some of the things other speakers have said about the procedural affairs

committee in general. In the past six years I have had the opportunity to serve on many committees. The procedural affairs committee is the one on which I most appreciated serving. I have the honour now of being the vice-chairman of that particular committee.

9:10 p.m.

As the member for Oshawa mentioned a few minutes ago, most of us leave our political hats outside when we go into committees and have a down-to-earth discussion, particularly in these reviews of the agencies, boards and commissions with respect to their usefulness, the legislation they do not have that they want, the legislation they have that they perhaps should not have and things of that nature. Therefore, it is one of the very interesting sessions and interesting committees whenever we do review the various agencies, boards and commissions.

I would like to comment on some of the reports we have done, particularly number eight. A couple of these were particularly interesting. I think of the public institutions, the recommendation concerning the Board of Visitors of Home-wood Sanitarium. I learned that we had private hospitals in the province. I did not know that until that particular point. I think there may be two in the province, and that happens to be one of them. I understand it was incorporated just over 100 years ago and is a long-standing institution.

I went to another institution in Guelph. Sometimes we did not always speak of that one in the best light in terms of some of the remarks one would make as a college student. On the other hand, I think the particular board we reviewed is one of those that has perhaps outlived its usefulness in that there are other groups that can do it. I do not think the recommendations we made, particularly that one, were earth-shattering, but certainly the things we found out about that institution and the way it operates were to me personally, and I know to committee members, extremely interesting.

We got to the parole board. I was one of those in the committee who raised the concern, and I still have concern, about the relationship between the powers of the parole board and the temporary absence program the ministry runs. One of the recommendations this committee made was that this matter be reviewed because there is bound to be some overlapping.

In view of some of the current news items on the problems we are having with what seems to be a rash of shootings and so forth and with some of the events involving people who are currently on parole, although perhaps not out of our

Ontario system, I think this has to be looked at even more. I hope the Ministry of Correctional Services takes this and looks at it fairly closely.

I was particularly interested in our activities and discussions with the Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario. I believe some 47 crops now, if memory serves me correctly, are insured under the crop insurance commission. One of the problems it has in creating paperwork, and I think it is a problem we have in the government, is that every year when it wants to change the rates—and they are based on actuarial rates; it is a three-way co-operation in crop insurance among the farmers, the provincial government and the federal government—it requires a regulation, and the regulation has to be filed even though we are changing the rates by only a few cents or something of that nature.

I do not know how the crop insurance commission can get out of this without our changing the legislation. It probably would not be right to give it the authority to set those rates without some sort of legislation. But certainly I think it should at least group these crops, provide or find some way so that we do not have to file independent regulations for every rate that is set for each crop in Ontario. I am sure this can be done by some kind of combination.

Another proposal that I have been a proponent of for many years, long before I came to this Ontario Legislature—and I realize the problems on the other side of the coin—deals with the problem of what is commonly called spot coverage in crop insurance. We have a system of spot coverage on winter wheat, as an example. If the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) has a crop of wheat and he has a field and loses five acres to winterkill out of the middle of that field, he gets an allowance for those five acres out of the middle. In other words, he can collect the insurance on that amount. That is really the way we would like it to work.

The problem we have in Kent county and in other areas of the province is that we have farmers who, when they want to expand their farms, can not buy the farm next door. They have to go 10, 15 or 25 miles away to buy a farm. One of the rules and regulations in crop insurance is that a farmer must insure his entire crop under one contract. For some purposes and some arguments, that is fine and I accept it.

This past summer we had a tremendous variation in the amount of rainfall in an area of 10 miles and in as little as five miles within our area. I live only about five miles outside the city of Chatham. I believe we had about three inches of

rain in Chatham one day. I thought, boy, everything has dropped, but by the time I got home I could not believe we had not had a drop.

For the people in Tilbury, those in the riding of the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) and those on the west side of the riding of the member for Kent-Elgin (Mr. McGuigan), the yield on soybeans this year was in some cases less than half what it should have been. It is a relatively small area. It is bad if one is affected, but it does not extend all the way down to Lake Erie. It does not extend all the way to Leamington.

It is fine by the time one gets to Blenheim and Ridgetown. If one goes up to Chatham and Dresden, the crops are pretty good. However, there is a small pocket in there. One can picture a farmer having a farm in that area and a farm up in the middle of Dover township. His average is great because he has a bumper yield on one, but he has next to nothing on the other one and crop insurance will not pay him. I think for some crops and some insured hazards we should have insurance on individual fields.

Mr. Nixon: Would that include tobacco?

Mr. Watson: I would include tobacco if, say, a hailstorm hits a farmer's field of tobacco on one farm and not on another. Why should it not when it is out of the control of the individual farmer? I suppose insurance is always supposed to be an act of God. We get into those kind of arguments where the farmer did not spray. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk knows that when a hailstorm goes through, it is generally a fairly narrow swath and, zoom, it goes. We had one about three years ago on the outskirts of Chatham. It went through in a narrow band.

I have an example of the ridiculous thing we can get into, and it does not happen very often. I had a farmer who was sharecropping with one of my city friends. The city friend rented the 15 acres and grew soybeans on shares with the farmer. They insured the soybeans under crop insurance. Along came the hailstorm and, bang, down went the soybeans. There was no question; they were destroyed.

The members can guess what happened. The city sharecropper got paid because that was all the soybeans he had. Because the farmer who was in the business had 100 acres of soybeans down the road which were all right, his average was away up despite those 15 acres and, therefore, he did not qualify under his guaranteed yield.

When the crop insurance system does not permit such a claim I think it is time we reviewed the crop insurance system.

Mr. Nixon: It may take a change in government to fix that.

Mr. Watson: I do not know what it is going to take. We have had a change in Ottawa. Maybe we should apply some pressure there and get this thing changed.

Mr. Nixon: Did the member see what they are doing in Ottawa? They are spending all that money on the ministers' staff.

Mr. Watson: By the way, I am truly sorry the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk did not make the Senate. I really thought he was going to be on that list. I thought he was there and I would have applauded that.

Mr. Nixon: There is still time. The honourable member should speak to Brian. Stephen Lewis made it.

Mr. Watson: Yes, Stephen made it. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has to bide his time because if he goes too soon there would be so few left that the Liberal Party would not be the official opposition any more.

9:20 p.m.

One recommendation the member for Oshawa dealt with in detail and I would like to deal with in some detail concerns the Alcoholism and Drug Addiction Research Foundation and particularly the recommendation we made to phase out the local and regional offices. I thought the member for Oshawa put it rather well when he summed it up.

As a committee, we had the presentation. We did feel that research was what they did extremely well. In the presentation that was made to us, I got the impression, as I think the member for Oshawa did, that we did not get the emphasis on what the regional and local offices were doing, and therefore we said: "What are you doing? You are not doing very much."

I knew some of the things they had been doing, and since we have put out the report I have learned a lot more of the things they have been doing. If when we presented that report I had known all the things I know now, I might have objected to that particular recommendation going in.

Mr. Nixon: The member has had two bad letters from the constituency, has he?

Mr. Watson: No, I have not had two bad letters. However, one of the things I did about a month ago was to appear before the city council of Chatham and make a recommendation that perhaps the city of Chatham should consider a drinking and driving committee. A notice went out across the province, but Chatham did not act

on it. I feel fairly strongly about that, and I think we should be doing something in our area.

This week the local office of the addiction research foundation was asked to chair a drinking and driving committee in the city of Chatham. The foundation director was asked to chair it, because that group can give a neutral and objective point of view about drinking and driving. If a policeman is made chairman of it, he has a bias; it is a good bias, but it is worth taking into account. If a crown attorney is made chairman, he has a bias.

I think that group has the ability to provide the chairman for that committee, and I cannot do anything but wish him well. From a selfish point of view, because of the actions in Chatham within the last week, I hope the Ministry of Health will not give too much consideration to that particular recommendation.

We also have an excellent district health council. The district health council in our area has had a lot of good people on it. They have done a lot of good work and their recommendations are objective. Their recommendations are usually followed by the Ministry of Health. Perhaps they have had the publicity and the addiction research foundation has been less than spectacular in its publicity. I guess it may not need it or should not have the publicity.

The addiction research foundation certainly has set up many in-plant alcoholic programs. It does not seem to matter which section of society we deal with, our various industries have problems. Many of our larger companies are dealing with these alcoholic problems, and the addiction research foundation helps them to get them on the right foot with programs as well as with community efforts.

I want to comment and merely identify myself with the comments of the member for Oshawa on the committee's actions on why that particular recommendation was there. I was one of those who, if we had our druthers, would rather not have put that in. I think if the addiction research foundation were doing it again, it would make a little different presentation to us on its activities on a regional and local office basis.

One of the interesting boards—and one gets involved personally with these boards; this is one board I have had something to do with over the past six years—happens to be the Board of Funeral Services. It is interesting for two reasons. One is that the chairman for many years was Mr. Wilf Scott from Woodbridge. Woodbridge happens to be my home town, and the Scotts were family friends and certainly well known to our

family; their children were the same age as I was, and I grew up with them. That board always had attention, because when I visited Woodbridge Rotary Club, as I have done on many occasions, Mr. Scott, who is a member, always used to take me aside and tell me what was going on in the Board of Funeral Services.

When Mr. Scott left that job, the position went to Mr. Eric Nicholls, who happens to be a funeral director from Wallaceburg, in my constituency; therefore, I used to be brought up to date. Once or twice I had the opportunity to ride the train from Chatham to Toronto with Mr. Nicholls as he was coming to a meeting and I was coming to the Legislature. Again, I got brought up to date on all the things happening on the Board of Funeral Services.

For those reasons, it was with some personal interest that I heard of the board's activities. We realized the board had its problems. We were impressed with the way they were resolving their problems. We know there are still problems, particularly in terms of their authority and in terms of licensing new people, getting these people educated at community colleges and things of that nature.

Another matter that came up with respect to the Board of Funeral Services was what seemed to be a phenomenon whose time has come, and we recommended that the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations amend the Prearranged Funeral Services Act to provide for the bonding of funeral directors. We wanted to ensure—this was my concern—that people who put money down on deposit with a funeral director got the value for their money, or their estate did, and that it did not disappear on them somehow.

In terms of a philosophy that is going across a lot of industries today, this one has a lot of support. We have seen this sort of thing in the travel industry; unfortunately, it has had to be used two or three times, but the fund is replenished. We have seen it in the agricultural industry, where yesterday was the starting date for the financial protection for corn and soybeans. We had a red meat plan; that was discussed for a long time, but we could not move and take action on it. Unfortunately, it took a bankruptcy in my part of Ontario to bring it to a head, and all of a sudden it proceeded. We have seen it this year with the vegetable crops, which now have a financial protection aspect to them and a fund established in case somebody goes into bankruptcy.

We have the suggestion about the insurance agencies at the present time. The Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations is asking for suggestions about how one can be assured, if one buys insurance, that there is money there to pay the claims should the company involved go into bankruptcy or receivership or otherwise not have the money to pay.

The same kind of principle is involved in the case of the Board of Funeral Services. Bonding is what was recommended, because the board told us that was probably the cheapest way for funeral directors to do that. I was not concerned how they did it, whether they established a separate fund or whether they went into bonding. My concern was that they did something on that issue.

I want to wind up my comments by stating again that I have appreciated my activities on the procedural affairs committee. I appreciate the other members. It is one of the areas where we look at problems, whether they be agencies, boards or commissions, on the basis of what is best for the province rather than what is best for "my party." Over the years, we have come up with reports and recommendations that have been meaningful. When we do it in that way we are respected by all sides of the House.

9:30 p.m.

The Deputy Speaker: I believe the member had one last thought he wanted to share with us from that committee.

Mr. Watson: Pay tribute to the Speaker; was that it? I will be glad to pay tribute to the Speaker, particularly if the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) is going to be the next speaker. Is that the idea?

Motion agreed to.

REPORT, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the 11th report of the select committee on the Ombudsman.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be able to say a few words on this 11th report of the select committee on the Ombudsman, dated March 1984. I say so because in a sense I perceive this to be a pivotal report with respect to the history of the Office of the Ombudsman and the reports made as a result of the establishing of that office.

I do not think one could do justice to the whole theme of the Ombudsman without first elaborat-

ing a little bit on that opening comment of this being pivotal. I say so because the history of ombudsmanship in this province is one that began with the reign of the late Arthur Maloney. In a sense I hesitate to use the word "reign," and yet it is most appropriate because he handled the office as the first Ombudsman of this province in a kingly way.

There are critics, who have become silent of recent days because of the passing of Mr. Maloney, who chose to be critical of the approach he made to the office. Yet if one sits back in cool reflective thought and considers that criticism, one would have to agree it was more a criticism of the trappings of the office than of the office itself.

Without question, the first Ombudsman determined to be a spokesperson for the little man. He established routines that were sound routines. Some of the regulations or trappings that followed along after them became a touch cumbersome, but in general the first Ombudsman of this province served the citizens of this province, the Legislature and that new function in a very positive way.

From that comment, I want to move to the second Ombudsman in the person of Mr. Morand, who attempted in a very sincere way to bring the trappings into line and to address the Ombudsman's office to the detail of work that flowed from the many investigations that he became involved in. It was at this time, I think, that the Legislature started to zero in more on the office and on the Ombudsman as something the Legislature should be concerned about to be sure we were not getting too involved with the mechanics of operation.

We are all aware of some of the disagreements the select committee had with Mr. Morand about the procedures of operation. I believe it was unfortunate for him that some of his staff were so protective of him and so determined to make sure every t was crossed and every i was dotted that for a short period of time the Legislature seemed to fall into second place. That brought some unfortunate exchanges of views and ideas about the whole role of Ombudsman into the public arena, into the arena as shaped by the media. To an extent and for a short period of time the office suffered and the Legislature suffered.

That was resolved, however. It was resolved in the final analysis when the second Ombudsman chose to retire, and through the period of an interim Ombudsman, the government in its wisdom reflected on what the select committee had been saying, the select committee being the

voice of the Legislature for all three parties. Then, as this 11th report was presented, we were aware of the appointment of the third Ombudsman, Dr. Hill.

I think the select committee plays a unique role in this whole legislative process, because every member of this chamber is an Ombudsman. The role we play in trying to accommodate the concerns, the problems and the red tape our constituents bring to us is one that is funnelled into this office and is now available to every member of this House, be he a back-bencher, a front-bencher, a cabinet minister or whatever. We all, as ombudsmen, reach that point when we have to lean on someone else, someone with a little more ability or expertise; this is really where the Office of Ombudsman comes to serve us all. When I say "serve us all," I mean we then turn the funnel around and reflect on all the people in Ontario.

In this 11th report there is an indication, if one compares it with the previous 10 reports, that the work is starting to become more refined; that is, the work of the Office of the Ombudsman and the work of the committee. In the early stages, as committee members looking at the office, we were concerned about the number of hours and the number of days it took to resolve a case. We got hung up to a degree on the mechanics of the operation. I think there is a reflection here, and certainly there will be in the next report a further indication, that things are starting to narrow down and become more refined.

I am pleased to have had the opportunity to be a member of this committee because of all the committees of the Legislature, it is one of the less partisan committees. All three political parties are represented in a way in which we see that reflection of evenhandedness. There has been precious little acrimony, back-biting or fighting among the ideologies that are represented in this chamber.

9:40 p.m.

In a sense, I also take a bit in pride in observing the way this committee presented itself to a conference held in British Columbia a year ago. The British Columbia Ombudsman, Dr. Karl Friedmann, invited us along as a unique entity in the Dominion of Canada. Not every province has an Ombudsman and not every country has an Ombudsman, and certainly not every political entity has a select committee working along with, at times overseeing and at times acting as a reflector for the concerns of, that office.

We, the members of that committee, felt we were rather privileged to be asked to attend and to

be part of the group. There were many people there from outside Canada. There were people from Europe, Australia and the United States. When I say people, generally they were staff or ombudspersons. There were no other people there acting in the capacity we were acting in as members of a select committee on the Ombudsman here in Ontario.

We were privileged to be there. The people looked at us as a body that had something unique to offer and contribute in discussion. I say with considerable pride that the chairman of the committee, the member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman), who was our chairman then and is still our chairman, took part in the panel discussions as the official spokesman, although the rest of the committee were able to chip in. We were very pleased with the presentation made by the honourable member and we were also pleased with the opportunity to attend.

This 11th report contains a handful of recommendations on specific cases. These are found at the very back of the report, on page 47. If one looks at the eight recommendations, one can see that four of them—half the cases—are related to the Workers' Compensation Board. The others are spread around with the Ministry of Education, the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada, the Ministry of the Attorney General.

It is significant to observe that half the recommendations deal with one of the Ombudsman's basic problems, and that is its relationship with the Workers' Compensation Board. That reflects the relationship of most of the members of this chamber with his or her constituency problems, the majority of which in the past have related to the Worker's Compensation Board.

Even though it is not technically proper, I am pleased to allude to the 12th report that has just been dealt with by the committee and which will be presented to the chamber either late this fall or early in the spring. That report will reflect, as this one does, a refining or boiling down of the problems the Ombudsman has passed on and which we are dealing with as a committee.

I see good things happening. It might be a contradiction in thought to say that the first Ombudsman and the second Ombudsman each did his thing in seeing the role or the office evolve. They tried their level best, they got things going, but there were problems; I would say basically mechanical problems. This select committee and the reports have tried to resolve those and bring them into focus for the chamber.

They are now narrowing down. I started by saying that we are at a pivotal point and I am proud and pleased to be part of it.

I will conclude by saying that this report is one that will be looked back on as the turning point in the relationship of the office, the committee and this chamber in serving the concerns of the people in our province who run into red tape with various ministries, those people who need the Office of the Ombudsman.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to participate in the debate on this, the 11th report. Whenever we deal with these reports, I am struck with the thought that they would be more significant if we had an opportunity to debate and discuss them sooner after we finished them. In a sense we are dealing with a report that is now somewhat stale; indeed, some of the very ideas in it have—much to our encouragement—been implemented by the new Ombudsman. Of course, we will have an opportunity to compliment him on his excellent work in his new role in the debate on the next report.

One of the first things in part I, the introduction, talks about an excellent conference that was hosted by Dr. Karl Friedmann in Vancouver. One of the highlights of that conference was a panel in which the late Arthur Maloney participated.

I think all of us over the years, whether we occasionally agreed or disagreed with Arthur Maloney, had to see him as one of the great men in the development of the Ombudsman movement, and I was struck almost a year later by some words at a different conference, one in Stockholm, by the South Australian Ombudsman, R. D. Bakewell. He said, "The most effective tool of an Ombudsman's independence is his ability to publicize the outcome of an investigation." That particular Ombudsman went on to say, "The Ombudsman does so by the use of separate press releases, annual reports and generally going public with the results of those investigations."

I guess Arthur Maloney knew how to use those. He knew how to bring about change by ensuring that his decisions, made in an independent way, would be released, that he and the media would put pressure on and let the chips fall where they might.

Sometimes it took real courage to do that kind of thing; it took an independence of mind. Some of us did not always agree with what Arthur Maloney was about, but one had to admire that he had the guts to come forward and use the media to

best advantage to correct the injustices he saw it as his mandate to correct.

One of the interesting things in the Ombudsman committee report, again on the first page, in dealing with the conference in Vancouver, was the excellent work done by Dr. Karl Friedmann. There are certain ombudsmen who will be remembered for a long time. Arthur Maloney was one of those; another is Dr. Karl Friedmann. I would like to go into some of his concepts and ideas in a later debate on the 12th report, because he gave an excellent and very comprehensive paper in Stockholm.

At the present time, one of the things that was very thought-provoking in Vancouver when one visited Dr. Friedmann's offices and read his reports was that basically he was saying—and a couple of other ombudsmen there were saying the same thing—that the role of the Ombudsman should be less to do case work to solve individual problems and more to concentrate on the system.

In an analogous way we have the same thing with the Provincial Auditor or the Auditor General of Canada. Surely the most important thing is not that he identify a particular injustice and correct that one injustice but rather that he identify the system that is wrong, the system of maladministration, and correct it so that further injustices do not happen.

9:50 p.m.

Dr. Friedmann in his reports, which he shared with us in Vancouver, showed that he had been able to do that. In fact, he was looking not just at solving an individual case of injustice but rather at identifying an administrative fault. One of the interesting and very encouraging things in the new Ombudsman's 1983-84 report was that he, in fact, has taken that systemic approach. He has not taken on the whole government. It is a slow process. Indeed, what he has done is identify areas in which he thought had the most possibilities of identifying systemic problems.

In his report he has come down, as Friedmann has done, with certain principles of administration. One can read the report and clearly identify them and, indeed, any ministry could use them eventually almost as a training manual, if we were to compile them all together, for top public servants, and say, "This is the kind of thing we have to watch out for or we are going to have individual cases of injustice resulting."

I think one of the interesting cases in this was the case of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing refusing to compensate a group of people it had identified, or maybe even named, or indicated were speculators. The two New

Democrats on the committee found ourselves in the unusual predicament of saying:

"We happen to think these people may be what you say they are or what you are implying they are, but that does not change what it is we are about. What we are about is identifying a systemic problem. There is a systems problem here committed by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing; namely, the ministry, in setting up its system, did not take into account the making of rules so people could not manipulate and take excessive profits through speculative gain in this particular instance."

We cannot close the gate and retroactively take away from people something they have done legally. We cannot take the heat off the government for maladministration by simply saying, "These are bad guys." We cannot decide, as the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing did in the case of these 18 people or companies in the Pickering case: "These guys were just a little smart and they took us. They found a loophole." We cannot get away from saying: "We made a mistake. We are going to correct the mistake. We are going to say we are sorry, but you found the hole and you got through and we are going to see that the hole is not created the next time we come to a similar problem."

We were faced with agreeing with the Ombudsman. We were saying: "There is no proof that these people are speculators, or that all of them are speculators, but even if they are, it is the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing that made the mistake. The ministry should have set down the rules, but it did not. We cannot take the heat off the responsibility of the ministry by simply saying we do not like the people who took advantage of it."

I think we had a problem in dealing with that and in dealing with one or two other cases. The problem was that we considered and we let get in our way and into our thinking a whole bunch of extraneous facts, considerations and innuendoes that had very little to do with the case. One of the things the new Ombudsman has implemented that, unfortunately, was not available to us at that time but that has made things so much simpler for the committee, is a procedure whereby the Ombudsman and the ministry affected agree to a statement of fact.

I think if we had had that in the case of the 18 people in the Pickering case, perhaps the focus of that debate would have been simply on the facts. The personalities, who they were, who they might be or whatever, might have had less importance. I do not know, but I think it might

have affected the decision and the committee might have found in favour of the Ombudsman and against that ministry.

The new Ombudsman has implemented that and I think it is a good procedure for dealing with cases such as this where extraneous sorts of things may affect the decision of members who, like any jury, are affected by who they think the participants are in a particular problem.

One of the other advantages of the new Ombudsman and the Ombudsman's new procedure is that one of the interesting things that happens, and they have confirmed this, is the moment both sides—the Ombudsman who feels a particular client, citizen or corporation is offended and the offending ministry—sit down and start agreeing on what the essential facts are, often the problem disappears. The misunderstanding is a misunderstanding of what exactly the facts are in the case.

Indeed, Dr. Hill admitted there perhaps were a number of cases that did not have to come to the committee because of the new procedure he has implemented. That is a tremendous advantage and Dr. Hill is to be congratulated for that.

What we have in this report is kind of the edge. Before Mr. Morand left we were arguing about some of these things, some of these procedures. As Dr. Friedmann had done, there was the idea of looking for a systemic approach, which has now been implemented by the new Ombudsman, and the idea of procedures that can best identify what the real facts are and eliminate external factors that may cloud the judgement.

We are in a new era. I think it is rewarding that many of the things some of us were striving for in the committee, as in this report, have now been implemented so excellently by the new Ombudsman. It is encouraging that this has happened.

Lest the government think that because I am paying so many compliments to Dr. Hill I have ignored the way in which he was appointed, I should assure the members that I still think, as the report points out, that even though we have had an excellent appointment in this case—one all of us can support and one all of us are overjoyed with as a result of his first few months in office—none the less, looking in Vancouver at the way Dr. Friedmann was appointed, we cannot help but say there is a better way of appointing an Ombudsman than the system that was used in this excellent appointment.

With the appointment of Dr. Friedmann, we saw the government screen hundreds of applicants, short-list them to about 10 and then the committee had to come to a consensus as to who

the Ombudsman should be. The members will notice I did not say the committee had to come to a vote, but rather that it had to come to a consensus. In the case of Friedmann, they made an excellent choice, although the latest government may be having second thoughts about some of the systemic inquiries in which Dr. Friedmann finds himself.

One of the things the report talks about is still an outstanding problem. We requested in the 10th report that, "The Attorney General table during the 32nd Parliament of the Legislature a bill amending or otherwise dealing with the Ombudsman's Act, having regard to the matters contained in the draft bill and policy submission provided by the Ombudsman..."

We are still waiting for that legislation. With the advent of the new Ombudsman, it would be appropriate to have that bill before us, to go to committee and to have the insight of the new Ombudsman in relation to the new legislation and the changes that are necessary.

10 p.m.

If I have something negative or regretful to say, it is about recommendation 2. Recommendation 2 has still not been implemented. If I may summarize the essence of it, we found the Workers' Compensation Board to be playing word games with the committee and the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman had taken the position that the board had not complied with the committee's recommendation. Members will recall that in its 10th report the committee asked that the Workers' Compensation Board reconsider its decision.

It should be fairly clear to the Workers' Compensation Board, if they read Hansard and considered their own experience with the committee, that the intention of the committee was that they reconsider and change their position. Instead of doing that, the Workers' Compensation Board said, "We have reconsidered and we stick to our original position."

That kind of word game was irritating not only to the Ombudsman but also to the committee. The committee said, "The committee will expect hereafter when it considers recommendations from the Ombudsman that the precise nature of the result intended will be explained to the committee in order that any recommendation it may decide to make can be framed accordingly."

It is just not the Ombudsman's words. It is not just the committee mistaking the words. It was fairly clear. The Workers' Compensation Board knew exactly what the committee was asking for and what the Workers' Compensation Board was

asking for. We used a polite way to say: "You fellows had better understand that we do not agree with you. We want you to reconsider it and we want you to change your decision." Because we did not say, "We want you to change your decision or reverse your decision," they took advantage and tried to find a loophole.

That kind of thing irritates members of the committee. It also irritates the Ombudsman and it thwarts credibility. I would rather the Workers' Compensation Board said: "No way. We are not going to implement this. We strongly disagree" and come forward in a straightforward manner instead of playing word games with the committee and with the Ombudsman.

Another problem we identified is found on page 27, a game played by the Ministry of Consumer and Commercial Relations. I worried about the fact that this government and other governments increasingly are hiding behind tribunals and quasi-judicial bodies without giving adequate direction and without giving adequate guidelines. This is the case in the Housing and Urban Development Association of Canada home warranty program.

If there was ever a bureaucratic, bumbling organization set up by this Legislature, it is the HUDAC home warranty program. Any of us who have ever appeared before it know the whole thing is stacked to try to discourage the person who is making a claim and to intimidate anybody who would dare appeal.

There is the little guy up there, and HUDAC's lawyer is cross-examining an ordinary citizen and questioning his motives and so forth. Any of us who have been through that know it is a devastating experience for the participants. Instead of dealing with the report and the request by the Ombudsman and by the committee, the ministry declined to take any direct steps since the plan is administered by HUDAC.

I say to members that the government cannot get away from its responsibilities of seeing that justice is done to its citizens by hiding behind these tribunals. Surely if the system is wrong, if the process is wrong, the minister has to advise that tribunal and change that. Of course, we deal very forcefully with that and show exactly the problem in this specific instance of HUDAC.

The committee recommended that the ministry and HUDAC take appropriate steps to provide for payment to the complainant of his statutory entitlement to compensation under the Ontario new home warranties act. In the circumstances of the case, the committee considered the sum of \$20,000 appropriate payment. I am pleased to

see the ministry accepted that and implemented the recommendation.

The thing that concerned me most was the ministry's taking a stand of hands off. There was basic injustice there and the ministry should have got hold of HUDAC and said: "Look, you are not going to hide by saying you are exempt. We are not going to hide you by saying we do not have some responsibility."

We are pleased that a majority of the recommendations on schedule 1 have been implemented. Recommendation 1, as I understand, was implemented. Recommendation 2, which I just talked to, is not being, and I am disappointed. I am pleased to see the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) is here at least to answer to that.

I am not quite sure whether the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) is coming in to deal with recommendation 3. I would like to have some comments from someone on where that is. Recommendation 4 was not implemented, but we expect it soon will be. At least we keep expecting the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) to come forward with it. All the other recommendations, numbers 5 to 8, have been implemented.

I look forward with enthusiasm to the new ideas that will come with the new legislation. We will be talking about a number of things in future reports. No doubt the ministry will be thinking of these when the new legislation comes in.

For example, it has been suggested the Ombudsman should not only make recommendations but also prosecute and reverse decisions. In Finland and Sweden the ombudsmen have the right to prosecute. That is one of the things that has come out of some of the conferences we have been able to attend.

In 1978 the Commonwealth ombudsman raised the issue of whether it would be appropriate for an ombudsman to act as a general counsel for citizens seeking a determination of their legal rights vis-à-vis a government. It was even suggested such appeals could be decided by the ombudsman in his office.

Our Ombudsman could become a general policy adviser to government in this regard, but he could also act as a legal advocate in cases where a specific right needed to be tested. As I pointed out in my private member's bill, in our own jurisdiction the Ombudsman could be made responsible for the protection of citizens' privacy and also for the right to access to certain government information. Unfortunately, in bringing

down Bill 80, the government has not seen fit to give the Ombudsman these powers.

Those are some of the issues we will no doubt be talking about with the new Ombudsman, who has already implemented many of the things we in this party and I specifically have been asking for. We look forward to debating the next report.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few brief comments on the report.

The Vancouver trip which the committee made to attend the Canadian conference was most worth while. From a personal point of view, it was quite a privilege and an honour to have the opportunity to participate with Mr. Arthur Maloney in a session in the program dealing with the Ombudsman as an officer of the Legislature and how ombudsmen and legislatures relate to each other.

It was the first opportunity I had to meet Mr. Maloney. All honourable members of the House know the late Mr. Maloney's reputation as a member of the legal community and as the first Ombudsman for Ontario. It was a great honour for me. All the members of the committee had the opportunity to sit down with Mr. Maloney at a social occasion following the session and get to know some of his views on the office. It certainly was a beneficial and rewarding experience to have that opportunity prior to his demise.

10:10 p.m.

I also want to mention the northern trip, which was certainly of benefit to the committee and of benefit to the Legislature in the long run in that it gave all the members of the committee an opportunity to have a greater understanding of the problems experienced by the people of the north and especially in relationship to their dealings with the Office of the Ombudsman.

The northern trip certainly gave us new experiences. When we were in Kapuskasing, we had to get up at 4:30 in the morning to catch a plane. We could not shave or shower; everything was frozen solid.

Mr. Van Horne: Including the member for High Park-Swansea (Mr. Shymko).

Mr. Runciman: He was frozen before the heat went off, or solid anyway.

In any event, it was a most enjoyable sojourn. I know all of us came away from that trip with a very positive feeling about northern Ontario, and we are very much looking forward to an opportunity in the near future to visit northwestern Ontario to complete our investigation of the lifestyle and situations faced by the people of the

north and how the Ombudsman's office can assist them.

We also had the first opportunity in the past session, and it is dealt with in this report, of handling the estimates of the Ombudsman. As members know, that has been a recommendation of the committee since it came into being. Without a doubt, our differences of opinion with Mr. Morand brought the question to a boil. As a result, the committee is now responsible for the estimates, which I think is appropriate. We dealt with the estimates for the second time this year. It is certainly of benefit, not only to the committee and the Legislature but also to the Ombudsman's office, to be dealing with a committee that has some expertise in the operations of that office.

The member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) mentioned the Workers' Compensation Board playing word games in a particular case. I simply want to indicate that although I agree with him to a certain extent in that situation, I think there was fault on both sides. The committee indicated quite clearly that the Ombudsman in his recommendations must be more specific in the future with respect to what the office wishes to see accomplished by the recommendation it makes to the committee. If it is vague and there is some degree of uncertainty, the committee really questions whether it has the latitude to go beyond the recommendation as spelled out by the Ombudsman.

We indicated clearly that if the Ombudsman has some specific goal he wishes to achieve as a result of a recommendation he is making to the committee, he should be much more specific in the wording of that recommendation. The Workers' Compensation Board took that particular recommendation quite literally; I do not know whether we can fault them for doing so. As we spelled out in the report: if the Ombudsman wants a specific result, he had better be specific in his recommendation.

The other thing I want to mention is that Frank McArdle, who was the temporary Ombudsman for some period of time, is deserving of some reference by this committee. In fact, he was put into a rather difficult position. He served quite well in that role during the time he was temporary Ombudsman for Ontario. For the most part, members were quite pleased with his performance in that role and satisfied with the co-operation we received from him while he was temporary Ombudsman. I think I speak for all members of the committee in wishing him well in the future.

The only thing I can add in winding up is that we welcome the new Ombudsman, Dr. Hill. Our initial dealings with him have been very positive, and we look forward to an excellent relationship with that office in the years ahead.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In my comments I neglected to make reference to the committee's trip to the north, as the chairman pointed out just a moment ago, and I would like to add to his comments that we were served well by one of our committee members. At that time the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché) was a gracious host to us. In addition to that, the hospitality we had in our visit to Attawapiskat, Moosonee, Moose Factory and Port Albany, aside from the more southerly points, was extremely gracious, positive and everything else good that one can say.

The native people of the far north treated us most kindly and made us aware of some of our shortcomings in a most positive way. Throughout the whole exercise, the representative of the Ombudsman working out of the North Bay office, Mr. Gilles Morin, was a good guide and host to us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to add those few words and to add to the record something positive about the visit we had to the north. It really was good.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I might add that I thought Mr. Gilles Morin showed he had a mastery and knowledge of and an empathy for the north.

One of the interesting things we found was that people did not distinguish between the federal government and the provincial government. They knew that if they went to the Ombudsman he was the person who would try to sort them through the bureaucracy. I think there is a lesson to be learned in that—and I think the federal government has made a serious mistake—and that is that you have one ombudsman; you do not have a fragmented series of ombudsmen.

While we saw this in that microcosm of the north, I think it is something we could well look at here in Ontario. We should not set up a whole bunch of separate tribunal type of organizations. That is one of the points I was trying to make on the freedom of information act.

The other thing that is significant about the north is that the new Ombudsman has expressed a particular interest in providing services there to cover all of the north. We saw only one portion of it, and we look forward to going up into Nipigon and that area of the north with the Ombudsman; I

know the new Ombudsman has expressed a particular interest in doing that also.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, I will make this very brief. In case some of the constituents of the member for High Park-Swansea read the record, they might misinterpret what I said earlier. I want to assure them that this particular member acted most responsibly during his stay in Kapuskasing, despite any rumours to the contrary.

There is another thing I want to mention. The member for London North made some comments in tossing bouquets, and this may be my last opportunity in this role; who knows? I simply want to say that it has been very much a pleasure to serve as chairman of the select committee because of the approach that all three parties have taken during the deliberations. It is truly a nonpartisan committee.

It has been most enjoyable, and I think that is exemplified by the relationship between the chairman and the vice-chairman, the member for London North. He has done an excellent job in supporting me in my role, and I think it typifies the kind of relationship that has developed during the past three and a half years on that committee.

Mr. Kerrio: What is Her Majesty going to say about that?

Mr. Runciman: She may have some problems with that; that is right. It has been an excellent relationship and a very worthwhile experience.

10:20 p.m.

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, may I just add some comments?

Mr. Speaker: Not really. I have given extreme latitude to all honourable members in allowing them to speak more than once on the same topic. I did that only because of—

Mr. Shymko: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: On behalf of all the members of the select committee, I want to congratulate the quality of leadership provided by the chairman of the committee. The success of the select committee's performance is due to a large extent to the leadership provided by the chairman of that committee.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 10:20 p.m.

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No. 94

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Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, October 18, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 18, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the government, as members of the House will know, established the Ontario Status of Women Council in 1973 to advise on any and all matters of concern to women. The advice we have received from that council has formed the basis of our activities on behalf of the women of this province for over a decade.

The first chairman, Laura Sabia, and her dedicated council members proceeded quickly to establish themselves as a most effective advisory council, and her successors to that position, Lynne Gordon and the council's most recent president, Sally Barnes, continued this tradition. I would also like to pay tribute today to the tremendous co-operation I have received from the vice-president, Sheila Ward, in this interim period and to extend my words of appreciation to her as part of this statement today.

Perhaps the most visible contribution of the Ontario Status of Women Council was the appointment in 1983 of a Minister responsible for Women's Issues and the formation of the Ontario women's directorate in the office of the Deputy Premier effectively to consolidate, co-ordinate and improve the government's policies, programs and activities on behalf of the women of Ontario.

The establishment of the directorate, providing, as it did, a structured focus for women's issues within the government, brought with it the necessity to re-evaluate the role and the mandate of the advisory council. It was for that reason the management consultant firm of Touche Ross and Partners was commissioned to conduct a study of the council, the directorate and their relationship.

The report resulting from that study is entitled *An Organization Review of the Ontario Women's Directorate and the Ontario Status of Women Council*, and I am pleased to table that document today. The report made several constructive recommendations and observations. I am sure honourable members will appreciate that

before appointing a new president it was imperative to have a clear indication of the purpose, direction and role of the advisory body.

The challenging mandate and demanding responsibilities of the council require an able president. I believe we have found such an individual. I am delighted to inform the House that Ms. Sam Ion has been appointed the new president of the Ontario Status of Women Council effective immediately. Honourable members will join me in welcoming her, as she sits in the Speaker's gallery this afternoon.

Sam Ion is familiar to all of us as a columnist and feature writer for the *Toronto Sun*. Her column "Dear Sam: Advice to the Working Woman" is syndicated, and her book by the same name was a bestseller in Canada and the United States.

She is widely sought after as a speaker for her opinions, advice and thoughtful counsel. Ms. Ion has made a valuable contribution to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, held office in a host of service clubs and volunteer organizations and served as a president of a co-operative nursery school. She has produced and directed several television shows and was nominated for Hamilton's Woman of the Year in 1973 and for a Vanier Award in 1982.

I am sure all members of the House will agree that she will be an effective representative of women's concerns in the tradition of her three predecessors.

Sam Ion will be assisted with her new challenge by members of the council at full strength with the appointment of the following individuals: Sarah Band of Toronto; Mariah Seymour of Kenora; Ed Arundell of Toronto; Diane Marleau of Sudbury; and Dorothy Kirby-Rawn of Toronto.

Members will know that today, this very day, October 18, is Persons Day, the 55th anniversary of the landmark decision by the Privy Council which overturned a ruling of the Supreme Court of Canada and declared that women were indeed persons. We have come a long way since that historic event. Women have achieved prominence in every field of endeavour, and we are moving rapidly towards the day when our goal of

true justice, fairness and equity for everyone in Ontario will be realized.

I am confident that our progress will be enhanced by the efforts of the Ontario Status of Women Council guided by its very able president, Sam Ion.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, as the women's issues critic for the Liberal Party, on behalf of my colleagues I would like to offer our congratulations to Sam Ion on her appointment. We wish her well as she takes on this very challenging task. We hope she will meet with great success and that she will have the resources, both personnel and dollars, to forward the cause of women in Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, after a considerable delay we welcome the appointment of a new chairperson at the council. We certainly appreciate the appointment of Sam Ion and the other members of the committee.

I cannot resist simply indicating two things to the minister. First, in December 1983 the procedural affairs committee recommended that the new president of the advisory council should be a full-time position.

Second, I must indicate to the minister that he is tabling a document from Touche Ross that is dated December 1983. I think it should be stated for the record that some nine or 10 months after a document was forwarded to the minister he has seen fit to table it without indicating in any way, shape or form what the government intends to do with any of the recommendations made to it either by the council or—

The Deputy Speaker: With respect to the member, this is more suitably a matter that should be brought up in question period.

COMMERCIAL FISHING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, as a result of a Supreme Court of Ontario judgement on October 15, individual quotas assigned to commercial fishermen have been ruled to be technically invalid at the present time. The judgement was based on the issue of delegation of authority from the federal Governor General in Council to the provincial Minister of Natural Resources.

In the decision, it was held by Mr. Justice Smith that the authority of the Minister of Natural Resources to impose individual quotas is not legally delegated in the federal Fisheries Act or the Ontario fisheries regulations made thereunder.

I am disappointed that the quota allocations have been held by His Lordship to be invalid. I

am also encouraged that the judge found we had been fair and just in both our applications and in the intent of the quota system.

I would like to make it clear that all of the other Ontario fishery regulations involving both sport and commercial fishing remain valid.

Members should know that the province is currently seeking both a stay of this judgement and leave to appeal the judgement to a higher court. The matter of staying the judgement will be heard on Friday, October 19.

In the interim, we are reviewing the other legislation and we will advise the commercial fishing industry of our subsequent approach to enforcing harvest controls.

We are encouraging commercial fishermen to continue to respect the intent of individual quotas in their fishing practices in recognition of the best interests of conservation of the resource, other resource users and the industry itself.

2:10 p.m.

I would like to remind members of the House of the importance of our fishery resource to the province. Across Ontario, from Lake St. Clair to Lake Nipigon, there are close to 1,000 commercial fish licensees who directly employ more than 2,000 persons annually. These fisherman land approximately 60 million pounds of fish a year with a landed value of nearly \$30 million.

The concerns facing the commercial fishery across the province are remarkably similar. Without exception, there is competition for the fisheries resource within the industry and among the various user groups. The competition between anglers and commercial fishermen for yellow pickerel, as an example, is as intense on the Lake of the Woods as it is on Georgian Bay or Lake Erie.

Each user group is calling for sensible control of fish harvests. Tourist lodge operators, charter boat operators and recreational anglers, who alone contribute more than half a billion dollars to the provincial economy annually, are demanding measures that will ensure a stable fisheries resource. I think it is obvious a stable resource is needed to make long-term business decisions and plan for recreational pursuits.

It is concern for each of these groups as well as for the future of the commercial fishing industry as a whole that prompted the Ontario government to bring changes to the management of commercial fishing. Our goal is to make sure fish stocks are protected from collapse and that the commercial fishing industry is protected from the instability it has experienced for the past 40 years.

To achieve this goal, we have been working with commercial fishermen for several years. We have been looking for ways to protect fish stocks, streamline commercial fishing administration and, at the same time, allow good opportunities for productive business enterprise. I would like to emphasize the degree of consultation between my ministry staff and members of the commercial fishing industry concerning the modernization program.

From as early as the late 1970s and more intensively from the beginning of the 1980s, there have been extensive communications. This has included letters to the industry; reports circulated and comments requested; meetings held by local ministry staff with local fishermen and fishermen's associations; joint industry-ministry committees; meetings between the ministry and the Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries; and meetings between the successive ministers of Natural Resources and individuals, associations and representatives of the industry.

The result is a program for modernization of commercial fishing in Ontario that is a comprehensive treatment of many of the problems identified by the industry. The primary goal of the modernization program must be conservation of fish species. This is the essential first step in guaranteeing a healthy and economically viable commercial fishery.

A program of this magnitude necessarily involves changes. The biggest change to result from the modernization is the establishment of a quota system providing each fisherman with a share of the available catch.

As many members know, until now Ontario has relied on more indirect methods to manage the fish harvest. This included closed fishing seasons, closed fishing areas, size limits on catch and restrictions on the type of gear used.

Under the new system, commercial fishermen would be assigned individual species quotas representing each fisherman's share of the total allowable catch allocated to the industry. In other words, the proposed quota system would do away with many of the efficiency reduction regulations and concentrate instead on maintaining a total catch geared to fish stock predictions.

We trust this matter will soon be resolved to the benefit of all concerned.

ORAL QUESTIONS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education and Colleges and

Universities with respect to the now two-day-old strike of the community college teachers. I would like to ask the minister a number of questions, but what are her plans with respect to some of the students whose courses are now in jeopardy?

I use as an example the nursing class at Seneca College that is supposed to finish this semester. I am told 80 per cent or so of the graduating students could have been finding jobs in January when they graduated, and now it looks like their future is in jeopardy. What contingency plans does the minister have to address that specific problem and others like it across the province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it is the considered opinion of those who are very knowledgeable about education at the college level that a disruption of two or three days is not likely to produce jeopardy for any program, even nursing programs. That is the kind of information I am seeking in order to try to determine the most appropriate course of action on the part of the government in support of the students in the college system. Our primary concern is the students in that system. Any action we take will be in support of their educational program rather than anything else.

I will not give the honourable member the details of contingency plans because they vary from course to course and from institution to institution. It is therefore not possible to provide a list.

Mr. Peterson: I think the students would like to know that immediately, but I will pass on to another question with respect to the strike.

Will the minister not agree with me that at the present time the bargaining table is virtually polluted with bad feelings, that no progress is being made, that the position of the minister in her own so-called neutrality is highly suspect in the situation and that the things she is saying are not being confirmed by others? I can give her an example. The minister said, "The union had decided it did not want to talk." The union told us this morning that it flatly contradicts what she is saying.

The minister denied that a major issue in the campaign was the number of hours in the classroom.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I did not.

Mr. Peterson: Yes, she did. Of course, she did. She has the shortest memory. She is incredible. She does not remember what she said.

The Deputy Speaker: Would the member just put the question?

Mr. Peterson: She can stand and deny it. If she wants us to bring the tapes, the records and the newspapers in here, we will do it, but she cannot stand up and change her mind every five seconds and then pretend she did not say it a few minutes ago. Those are quotes.

I want to remind her of what she said. She denied that the classroom hours were a major issue in the campaign. The spokesman for the Ontario Public Service Employees Union said this morning: "We want to talk about the work load issue. That is what the strike is about and that is the only thing preventing settlement."

The minister said in this House, and I will show her Hansard if she wants me to, "On average, most of them are spending 15 to 17 hours in the classroom per week." Yet her own employer-employee relations study said that the average was 21.45 hours per week. I will show her that study if she wants to see it with respect to the 1983-84 work load.

What I am saying to the minister is that she is either misinformed, keeps changing her mind or is misrepresenting positions. Because she is the minister responsible, does she not feel that at this point some conciliatory gesture of impartiality, some kind of move to give the impression that she at least wants to get rid of those poisonous relationships—

The Deputy Speaker: We heard the question.

Mr. Peterson: —and try to solve some of the bad relations in the past would be worth while at this time?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That was a delightfully interesting diatribe. It is unfortunate for the poor leader of the Liberal Party that my memory is longer and more accurate than his is by a long shot.

I think I said very clearly in this House that the issue of classroom hours per se, or direct student contact in the classroom hours, was not the matter at issue, that it was the total work load, and that the union was asking for inclusion of such items as the time necessary to prepare classes, the time necessary to mark examinations and the time necessary to counsel students in the formula used to ensure they receive reasonable remuneration.

The direct student contact hours in the classroom are only part of the work load and they are not the matters which are at issue at this point. It is the total work load concept that is at issue. I think I made that fairly clear. If I did not, I apologize to the members of the House, because it was not direct student contact hours in the classroom that I perceived to be and which I have

been told by the union are the matter of grave concern.

2:20 p.m.

The figure that has been developed by the staff with respect to the average number of assigned teaching hours per week in 1983-84 in the colleges is 18.9 hours per week. It was informed opinion on the part of several individuals in the college system who provided me with the information that most colleges were unable to achieve 18.9 or 19 hours per week because of the rigidity of the formula.

That concern is bothering me at present, and it seems we must find a way to resolve that issue. I am looking at that at present, and I will continue to provide the House and the members with factual information at all times about this situation.

I will attempt not to suggest that I am taking any sides—

Mr. Rae: Oh, come off it. The minister was here as a spokesman for the regents on Tuesday.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Yesterday morning, when I spoke to the press at Niagara-on-the-Lake, I simply reported what I had been informed had occurred. The mediator had presented the last offer of the Council of Regents on Sunday afternoon to the group that was around the bargaining table and had awaited a response. I gather they had been informed that a response would be forthcoming. When it was not forthcoming late on Tuesday afternoon, the mediator called for an informal meeting of two representatives of the union and two representatives of the Council of Regents.

The two representatives of the Council of Regents went to that informal meeting; the two representatives of the union did not appear, and did not appear for a considerable period of time. I gather it was at that point the mediator said, "It is evident they do not want to talk and therefore I am suspending mediation." That was the situation. That is what I reported.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask the minister how she reconciles her statement that no student will fail because of this strike with the words of the administration at Durham College in Oshawa yesterday to their first-year nursing students. Those students were told that if they did not cross the picket line, they would fail their year; that they should make their choice now of their career or honouring a picket line; that no matter what they get on written tests, their score would be zero; and that they would not be

allowed to do their clinical work in hospital. In short, they were told that their career would be over if they did not cross a legal picket line.

Does the minister understand how that makes the parents and children feel in Oshawa, a union community that is currently on strike at General Motors of Canada, where parents on a legal picket line at GM are asking everyone to honour that line? How can she reconcile her statement with the threats that were made to those students at Durham College yesterday?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member would look, he would see that what I said was, "I cannot guarantee that no student will fail." That is an impossibility for any teacher, as the member very well knows. I said very clearly that it was my intention to do everything within my power to ensure that the academic year of the students in the college system would not be lost as a result of the strike, and that is precisely what I am attempting to do.

The condition at an individual college is determined within that college. It would be my understanding that those in charge of administration within the colleges would understand best the local situations and would make the kinds of statements that would be in support of those local situations. I have no control over the statements that are made by the administration of the individual colleges with regard to this activity. I am surprised that there was such a statement, but if it is there, I will investigate it.

Mr. Peterson: I refer the minister to the report of the Employer-Employee Relations Committee, 1983-84, which refers to the 21.45-hour figure as the total assigned classroom hours. One has to be frank in this situation and say that there is a lot of misunderstanding and extremely bad relations at the moment. I do not want to be uncharitable, but let me tell the minister, she personally is one of the major causes of that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Oh, thank you.

Mr. Peterson: It is just a reality; whether the minister knows it or not, it is just a reality because of some of the misstatements she has made and some of her perceived bias. It is poisoning the relationships, and she ought to know that. I know it and everybody else knows it. I am surprised the minister does not know it.

The Deputy Speaker: Can we have a question, please?

Mr. Peterson: My question to the minister is this. Does she not consider it as part of her responsibility at least to step forward personally and make some very serious conciliatory ges-

tures, the first of which is to admit that the work load is a problem and that she is prepared to address that because she does not want to see the quality of education hammered out on the bargaining table but rather she is prepared to take her responsibilities as a minister and tell us what the policy should be?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: One of the things I learned a long time ago that the poisonous personality of the Liberal leader has apparently not learned as yet is that one has to take one's role very seriously but one never takes oneself seriously. That, I think, is the important difference between the two persons here represented.

The only side I am on, and I hope the only side any member in this House is on, is the students' side in this dispute.

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I would hope that each one of us would be very careful about the kinds of remarks we make, because it would appear there are some remarks on the other side that are equally distorting. I think if we are all very careful from here on in, things will improve tremendously.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question to the same minister on the same subject.

Interjections.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, will you please protect me?

The Deputy Speaker: I will do my best.

Mr. Conway: Specifically, what contingency plan does the minister have for that group of people? Let us be very particular and talk about the graduating nurses at Seneca, many of whom will be ready to accept employment in a few months' time. Accepting that she cannot talk about the general, let us be specific. Can the minister tell me, so that I can tell the nurses about to graduate at Seneca, what specific contingency plan she has for them?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, Mr. Speaker, I do not think I should share that with the honourable member. That nursing school happens to be in my riding, and I will be very pleased to look after it.

Mr. Conway: I think that kind of attitude and that kind of answer speaks all too eloquently to the kind of role the minister has had in this. It speaks very much by dint of her attitude as indicated in her answer that she is part of the problem and not part of any solution to it.

Given that the union has stated publicly its concern about and its loss of credence in the mediator, Mr. Graeme McKechnie, does the minister not think it might be useful to consider seriously replacing Mr. McKechnie in that critical role of mediation with someone who enjoys the support and confidence of both sides in this very important matter, which we sincerely hope will be resolved at the bargaining table at the earliest opportunity?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I share the member's hopes that it will be resolved at the bargaining table and very rapidly. I remind him that it is the responsibility of the College Relations Commission to appoint the mediators, and I am sure the very responsible people on that commission are looking very seriously at the ongoing situation—

Mr. Bradley: It is the minister's responsibility.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not the minister but the College Relations Commission that makes those recommendations. The individuals who are appointed are appointed as a result of the serious consideration of the qualifications of each one in each situation, just as they are under Bill 100 for the teachers under the Education Relations Commission. It is precisely the same kind of arrangement.

The Deputy Speaker: May I remind all members, as we have the next supplementary, that we do have standing rules that preclude the use of language that might be construed as abusive or inflammatory.

Mr. Wildman: Are you talking about the minister? She called him a poisonous personality.

The Deputy Speaker: No. I was talking to all honourable members. I was only awaiting our next supplementary.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, how can the Minister of Colleges and Universities say with such certainty that this will be resolved so quickly at the bargaining table and speak so lightly of its going on for two or three days, as though that were the likely scenario in this dispute, and fail to indicate what steps she is going to take to see that this time frame is adhered to?

How can she say those things when she knows the work load issue is the one central question for the union and it is not prepared to back away from it? The chairman of the Council of Regents has said, according to this morning's paper, that he is a hardliner on this question and he has no intention of backing down on the work load issue.

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I said I sincerely hoped it would be resolved by negotiation, and I do. I also hope it will be done in relatively short order. I cannot be certain about that because one cannot be 100 per cent certain about any activity that involves human beings on both sides.

If statements are being made over which I may have some control that could be construed to be damaging to the negotiating process, we will make sure those statements are no longer made and attempt to be as fair as can possibly be appreciated on the side of the employer, with which we do have a direct relationship.

We have had interesting discussions in the past and in the past several months with the unions. I have shared my concerns with them and will continue to do so because I believe all of us are in this business together and we are all supposedly particularly concerned about the future of the students within the system.

Mr. Conway: I have a supplementary, going back to the question about the role of the mediator. Accepting, as we all must surely accept, that the College Relations Commission is an emanation of this Ontario government, of which the minister is so prominent a part, does she not share with me a concern that one of the two sides at the bargaining table has lost confidence in the objectivity and the credibility of the mediator?

What specific steps is the minister prepared to take to deal with that very serious and immediate difficulty, which is surely going to stand in the way of the most preferred solution, which is a resolution, and I hope a speedy one, at the bargaining table?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I can assure the member that the chairman and the members of the commission are neither blind nor deaf. They do read and they do take note of the information provided to them. They are aware of the situation totally.

Mr. Rae: Given the tone of the minister's answers and the tone and substance of her comments on Tuesday, it is very difficult for anyone listening to those comments to come away with any conclusion other than that she saw herself very much as a spokesman for the employer in this dispute, that she saw herself as a spokesman for the Council of Regents and, indeed, an apologist for the Council of Regents, in terms of the argument she was making in the House on Tuesday.

I see the minister shaking her head. If she has changed her mind about that role and now sees that is not helpful and that it makes the collective agreement more difficult, I agree with her.

I simply want to ask the minister this question: does she feel it is at least a reasonable proposition that the question of overall work load should be a subject of negotiations between the two parties and that the overall work load includes more than simply teaching hours? Is she prepared to concede that at least is a reasonable subject for agreement, disagreement and ultimately resolution and a collective agreement? Does she agree with that?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I thought I had made it clear on Tuesday afternoon when the question was posed that it was not a matter of simply the contact hours in the classroom that the union was concerned about. There is no doubt that there are some teachers within the system who are working extremely long hours because of the popularity of their classes and because of a number of other things.

I, for one, am suspicious that the kind of formula established by arbitration under Mr. Justice Estey is too rigid to deal with all these problems, and that is a matter I have asked be examined carefully. In the light of current negotiations, I guess that is not something that could be debated over the bargaining table at this point. If the formula itself is not good enough, it is very difficult to negotiate something better out of an imperfect foundation.

This is a matter I am looking at, therefore, but I tried very hard to provide factual information. I am not providing a bias, if I can help it. I am not an apologist for anyone. I am simply trying to provide the member with factual information about what is provided to me by both sides and from our monitoring.

Mr. Rae: I do not want to be inflammatory, but I simply say to the minister that the information she supplied to the House on Tuesday with respect to teaching hours is in direct—

The Deputy Speaker: May we have a question, please?

Mr. Rae: I would like ask the minister whether she can confirm that the information she gave to the House with respect to teaching hours—she listed certain figures and she knows what those figures are—is substantially different from, and I would say substantially lower than, the figures produced by the Employer-Employee Relations Committee 1983-84 faculty survey statistical summary for teaching area and co-

ordinators, showing averages of 12 or more response combinations based on all colleges. It is a fact sheet I am sure the minister has seen. She must have seen it before she came into the House on Tuesday, since she knows it is what is at stake in these negotiations.

If the minister had this information on Tuesday, why did she come in here with a cock-and-bull story about the teaching hours in the community colleges? It is information that is misleading, unfair to the faculty members involved and unfair to the negotiations involved.

I hope she will withdraw that statement and replace it with the factual information that she should have before her which gives a substantially different picture of the number of hours worked and the number of hours teachers are really spending with their students.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The information supplied by the Employer-Employee Relations Committee, which is a joint union-management committee, provides for this. In 1981-82, the number of assigned teaching weeks per year was 32 weeks; in 1983-84, it was 34 weeks. The average number of assigned teaching hours per week in 1981-82 was 19.6 hours; in 1983-84, it was 18.9 hours. The student-teacher ratio in 1981-82 was 14.8:1; in 1983-84, it was 16.3:1. In 1981-82, the total weekly hours, including class preparation, student evaluation and other assigned duties, was 39.9 hours; in 1983-84, it was 37.8 hours.

I have clearly pointed out today that in addition to that information, in my conversations with some reputable representatives responsible for scheduling within the college system, I was informed that because of the rigidity of the formula within the system, there was a problem even assuring this quota of 18.9 hours was being met in most colleges.

In most circumstances, the range was somewhere between 15 and 17 classroom hours—not total working hours or total work load, but classroom hours. This is what I was trying to tell the member for York South (Mr. Rae) the other day. This is the information that was established by the Employer-Employee Relations Committee. It has been in my hands at all times.

The members of the staffs of colleges who have been involved in this believe there is a problem, even with this information. They apparently do not believe it is entirely accurate.

Mr. Conway: On the contingency plan part of this critical question, when will the minister share that with the thousands of disadvantaged students who wait anxiously on her every word to

hear about the secret, silent contingency plans that rest so very dear to the minister's heart?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member is being carried away with his own hyperbole, as usual. The contingency plans in almost all circumstances are the contingency plans of similar faculties in various institutions or specific institutions per se. That is where they have been developed because it is the best place for them to be developed. It is where they can meet the needs of the students. I know the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) hangs upon my every word, but I do not think anybody else does.

Mr. Rae: Of all the things the minister has said, that is one with which we have little difficulty agreeing.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They do not hang on the honourable member's, either.

Mr. Rae: I am under no illusions about that. I want to ask the minister a simple question.

In view of her statements today that she does not see herself as a spokesman for either side and that she wants to do everything she can to effect a settlement, can the minister point out to us precisely what steps she plans to take to ensure a settlement happens? What precisely is the minister doing to ensure that a settlement takes place?

She said a number of things she does not intend to do. Could she please tell us what she does intend to do to ensure quality education for the students, fairness for the faculty and good service for all the citizens of Ontario?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am having some very useful discussions. When they have provided me with a solid foundation for action, I shall be pleased to share it with the House.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister sure there is not an ambassadorial appointment in line for her? With that last statement, she would certainly qualify.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

2:40 p.m.

NURSING HOME CARE

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Health. It was bad enough when the government of Ontario announced this summer that it was reducing its share of nursing home costs and increasing the burden on pensioners and on people living in nursing homes, but I would like to ask the minister if he can explain the following simple situation, which is a true one.

The Gustas family in Walden, near Sudbury, has a total income of \$806 a month. Mr. Gustas is

less than 65—62 years old—and was paralysed by a stroke. He is in a Sudbury nursing home. He receives an income from Inco and the Canada disability pension. Mrs. Gustas receives a disability pension of \$164.

How can the minister explain the fact that the wife, Ilze, now has only \$280 to live on, \$40 less than she had before the Ministry of Health reached in the family's pockets and pulled out \$40 a month in order to pay for nursing home care for Mr. Gustas?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the member is aware of the fact the adjustments that are made are made in conjunction with increases in old age security benefits and are designed to ensure that those persons are at a guaranteed level of discretionary, disposable income at the end of any given month. There are times when inequities creep in when individuals are dependent upon sources of income other than old age security.

I cannot respond to a specific fact situation without having those facts before me, and I do not think it would be wise for me to try to respond on the basis of a question such as the member has raised. I would be pleased to examine the situation he described and respond to him when I have had an opportunity to look at the facts and see if there is any way to alleviate the hardship he describes.

Mr. Rae: The Gustas family is not alone. There are literally thousands of families in a similar position to this family in Sudbury. The minister knows that perfectly well. He knows the number of families that are having to pay the chronic care copayment.

He knows perfectly well that as a result of that deliberate, mean-spirited, Dickensian decision of his government to increase the chronic care copayment, not to increase the quality of care in nursing homes, not to increase the money going to homes for the aged, but to simply reach into the pockets of old people and take that money and put it into the pocket of the government of Ontario, and that is what this government did—

The Deputy Speaker: Question please.

Mr. Rae: —there are many people in this province who are poor. Can the minister deny there are many families in Ontario that are directly poorer as a result of that mean-spirited, Dickensian move by his government to take money out of people's pockets and put it into the pockets of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman)? Can he deny for an instant that is exactly what he did?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I suppose if the member thinks I am putting it into the pocket of the

Treasurer, then he should ask the Treasurer what he is doing with it.

The fact of the matter is that I am not sure the member understands the distinction between extended care and chronic care. He has apparently used the two terms interchangeably in his question. I am now confused and I presume all members of the House are confused as to what it is he is really talking about. There is a difference.

There is also a difference between the two with respect to the formula upon which the individual pays the copayment. For that reason, in addition to the reason I cited in my first response, I think he would be well advised to provide to me the details other than on the floor of the House, and to afford me an opportunity to examine the situation to see if the predicament he describes is the one that the individual is in fact faced with.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, speaking of confusion, did I correctly understand the minister to say that the only time the copayment is increased is when the old age security payments are increased?

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Sweeney: Would the minister please clarify that? That was the impression he left in his original answer and yet I am sure both the minister and I are well aware that is not the case. What exactly is he trying to tell us?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am sorry if that was the impression the member had. There is, of course, another time and that is when the annual adjustments are made. Otherwise, the only time there is an increase in the copayment is one that is coincident with the increase in the old age security, guaranteed income supplement, and Gains total package payment to the senior citizens. That applies only in the cases of residents of nursing homes or chronic care facilities who are over the age of 65.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the minister himself does not understand what has happened. We have a situation in which a person who is under the age of 65 is in a nursing home and so did not get the increase senior citizens got. Although the cost of that person's payment to the nursing home went up by \$40, there was no corresponding increase in that person's income. In this case, we have the spouse of the person in the nursing home living on \$280 a month.

Was that really the intention of the minister when he increased the rates to people paying for nursing home care? If that was not his intention—and I find it hard to believe that he intended to take \$40 out of the pockets of the very people in

our society who are least able to afford it—will he at the very least roll back that increase for the people who do not receive the corresponding increase in pension?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the confusion that I made reference to was not with respect to that, but with respect to the fact situation. The member's leader, in the course of asking his question, used interchangeably the reference to chronic care and extended care. There is a difference in the kind of payment system that prevails.

Mr. Rae: They both went up. Are you denying they all went up?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not denying at all that they all went up. All I am saying is that if the honourable member wishes to ask a question, he should first clearly understand what it is he is asking.

The question of the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) was much clearer. He did not make the same confusing exchange of terminology that his leader did. I am assuming that he may understand the whole situation better. The leader of the NDP might well have been advised to let his member for Nickel Belt ask the question in the first place.

In so far as he did not, the member has now asked a supplementary. I will be pleased to review the situation and see whether anything can be done to relieve the difficulty.

I know cases of difficulty arise, not necessarily in the thousands, but there are some individual cases of families that face difficulty when these increases occur. I will be pleased to look at it if the member will be so good as to provide me with the facts.

COMMERCIAL FISHING MODERNIZATION PROGRAM

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Natural Resources in regard to the statement the minister made today. He is not getting his leadership campaign off to a very good start, I am sorry to say.

The minister has informed the House that he has for several years been working on an implementation system for the quotas. If he has been working on this quota system for several years, why is he not aware he did not have the legal right to implement the quota system?

2:50 p.m.

Did he get his information from Ontario's Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), whose record has not been very good over these past few

years? How can the minister and his ministry be working on a quota system for several years and not know that he did not even have the right to implement such a system?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, I indicated in the statement I made that the court had ruled with respect to subdelegation and cross-delegation. There was a decision made by Mr. Justice Smith that there was no legal delegation that was sufficient to authorize the issuance of orders in council and regulations to impose individual species quotas.

The issue of the delegation between the federal and provincial governments has been a problem between the two levels of government for at least two years. It was raised in the spring of 1983 in another context. We have asked the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans to put the delegation in very specific and concrete terms. We think that work will now be done.

We have expended millions of dollars pursuant to a delegated authority in this province—\$24 million a year. The federal government in a co-operative approach has invested about \$13 million a year for some extended period of time. The fact of the matter is that for over a century the delegation has been virtually unwritten and a judge has ruled that one needs a specific, detailed delegation in writing in order to authorize the issuance of the regulations. Now I understand it is the intention or the hope of both parties that specific subdelegation will be created.

Mr. Mancini: The minister still did not explain to the House how he could be working on a quota system for several years and not know that he did not have the legal right to implement such a system.

Why was the minister in such a hurry this past spring, last February, March and April, to implement the quota system when he had received correspondence from a great number of fisherman and fish processors who asked him to delay implementation of the quotas so that they could further discuss with the minister some of the problems they were having, such as the important area of the minister not having the exact poundage of what species of fish had been caught? The minister proceeded and implemented the quota system without having the exact facts.

Now that the minister has the industry in complete chaos, what does he plan to do if, on Friday of this week, he is not granted his stay and then once again the fisherman are allowed to go into the lakes and catch as many fish as they want to?

Hon. Mr. Pope: I presume from that last comment the honourable member is in favour of individual species quotas. He should read the judgement to understand that the legalities of the issue are not as clear-cut as he has tried to present to this House. The judge dealt with a number of case precedents on both sides of the delegation issue and then made his final decision. I would refer the member to the decision so that he can understand that it is not as clear-cut as he has proposed it is.

I would ask the member to read the decision and the specific reference to the Shoal Lake case before he makes such a clear-cut statement as he made in the first part of his question.

The second issue was that modernization has been discussed since the 1970s. There was a joint government-industry committee that looked at modernization issues. It made its report to the government and to the industry. In it, the committee, including industry representatives, recommended agreeing to species-specific individual quotas.

Based on that report, we went to the next phase of consultation. I have indicated, as an attachment to the statement, some of the personal contacts I had—the member was involved in some of them, as was the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller)—with the industry to discuss some of the details.

I appeared at every annual meeting of the Ontario Council of Commercial Fisheries to discuss modernization. Our staff met with them and discussed that in some detail. We made a decision—and the council understood that decision—to proceed in this current year with individual species quotas. In addition, we have moved to improve the administration of the quota system in line with their recommendations.

There will never be complete agreement among the commercial fishing industry, other user groups and the government as to how much fish exists in any one body of water. All I can do, along with my staff, is attempt to make some decision based on the scientific information that is given to me. That is the basis that we use for establishing the quotas, and that is the basis that has to be used for any rational system of allocation.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask the minister whether he will address himself to this particular problem as it affects our first citizens. Does the minister think the position taken by the court is anywhere parallel to the position taken by the federal government when he himself tried to

negotiate an agreement for an Indian fishing agreement?

Did his dialogue with the previous government flag the issue for him with regard to the importance of the fishery to our first citizens? Did the minister not get an inkling there, since they were so reluctant to sign the Indian fishing agreement, that there was a jurisdictional problem and that perhaps he did not have the right to establish quotas?

Now that he has this judgement, for which they are asking a stay tomorrow, what is the status of the charges that have been laid against the former chief of the Gull Bay band and five of its members? Is the minister going to put those in abeyance until this whole matter is settled?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, with respect to the charges now before the court, it will be up to the county court judge to make a decision upon those.

The issue of constitutionality was never specified by the representatives of the Department of Justice in the discussions of December 1982 and January 1983, in spite of our repeated requests that they provide some specifics about any problems with respect to constitutionality.

The delegation issue was set forward on the table as an issue of the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans wishing to add new terms or limits to the delegation without directly discussing those with the provincial government. It was in the light of that discussion that we felt the federal government might be trying to use that issue to rewrite the delegation or to put limits on the delegation that had not been placed there before. It was not with respect to the legality of the delegation or any aspects of it that we had that discussion.

USE OF FUNGICIDES

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment with regard to his responsibility for the Pesticides Act. Can the minister explain why his ministry and the Ministry of Labour passed the buck from one to another when summer employees at Chateau des Charmes winery at St. Davids, near St. Catharines, complained about hazardous use and storage of fungicides such as Captan, Sevin, Rovral and Folpet last summer?

Considering that Captan is a mutagen and a suspected carcinogen, why did the minister not at least send an inspector in when his ministry was informed that fungicides were being applied when the boys were working as close as 35 feet away and that they were being stored without

warnings and markings which are required by the ministry's own regulations, in an area next to a room where their employees eat lunch?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, this is the first I have heard of that case. If the materials the honourable member is describing were inside the building, they would come under the Ministry of Labour. If they were stored outside and exposed to the natural environment, it could well be a Ministry of the Environment responsibility.

I am not going to stand here and tell the member it is a matter that is being shifted back and forth between the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) and myself because, quite frankly, no one has complained to me about it; but I will look into it on behalf of the member. I will take his question under advisement and report back to him.

3 p.m.

Mr. Wildman: Is the minister not aware that agricultural workers are exempted from the Occupational Health and Safety Act? Is he also not aware that the regulations and general information on pesticide usage put out by his own ministry state under regulation 751 that pesticides should be stored in a locked facility away from food for humans?

Considering that and the fact that the regulations also state they should have a warning and be marked clearly, why did he or his ministry not take any action when they were informed that workers must walk through this unmarked storage area past unmarked fungicides in order to get to their lunch room and eat lunch? Why on earth did he not apply the regulations? Why does he allow workers to be endangered in this way without taking any action? Surely he is aware that this does show that the Ministry of Labour should without delay include agricultural workers under the Occupational Health and Safety Act.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to deal with the last part of the comment made by the honourable member; that is a matter to be dealt with by the Minister of Labour.

If there are any violations of the regulations governing the handling of toxic chemicals or of any of the products he has identified in his comments, if a company is in violation of the regulations that my ministry not only prints but enforces, then there is a possibility of prosecution of that company and it leaves itself open to that kind of action.

I can only reiterate what I said before. I have heard of the case for the first time today and I share the concerns the member is bringing to my attention. I will have the matter investigated. I

am not at all satisfied with any company that exposes workers to toxicity of that level and that type of chemical, and I will look into the matter.

MUNICIPAL ROADS

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, my question for the Minister of Transportation and Communications relates to the issue of municipal roads in Ontario.

I am sure the minister is aware of and has read the recent report of The Road Information Program of Canada on the condition of municipal roads in Ontario. The report points out that the condition of these roads is so serious that some 61 per cent of Ontario's paved municipal road system will need either resurfacing or reconstruction over the next five years. This is on top of the 2,000 kilometres of the province's highways that are already below his own ministry's standards. Over the next five years another 7,000 kilometres of these highways will also need resurfacing and reconstruction.

What steps is his ministry going to take to respond to the condition of the road system? Specifically, how much of an increase in actual expenditures will the government provide for road repair spending to deal with the present situation?

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the honourable member must realize I cannot answer that question. I will supply to the municipalities an increase of whatever this Legislature provides for that vote, or whatever the ministry is allocated for municipal roads. We will continue to distribute that to the municipalities, as we have been doing for many years.

Mr. Eakins: The minister's government has reduced funding in real dollars for road repairs and subsidies. In fact, there has been \$50 million less in tender calls by his ministry for road construction thus far than in the same time last year.

Why did the minister tell the Ontario Good Roads Association last February, "It is very difficult to demonstrate to the public the need to spend large sums on road maintenance until after the roads have deteriorated to a point where it will cost much more to almost totally rebuild them"?

Last year when I asked the minister about the reduction in funding, he said, as he said today, that he could only spend the amount of money the Legislature gives to him. Will the minister assure us road repair will be a priority and this government will bring before the House a five-year plan for road spending that will reverse the present decline in the road system?

Hon. Mr. Snow: As I have explained many times in estimates and so on, and as all the members of the House know, our budget has been severely constrained over the past number of years, as is the case with every other ministry. We recognize the need to maintain the road system. Our highest priority is to maintain the existing infrastructure. We have to maintain our existing road system and we have to give that a higher priority than building a new capacity, whether it be a complete new alignment or an increase in capacity on an existing line. We have continued to extend a higher priority to our own provincial road system, to resurfacing and maintenance, in order to maintain the system and not to let it deteriorate, and it has not done so.

The TRIP report came out and said, I believe, that eight per cent of Ontario's highways would need resurfacing during the next period of time. If the honourable member would get his research staff going a little bit and ask what that report said for the other provinces, he would find that in some of the other provinces it was 40, 50 or 60 per cent. I think if only eight per cent of our roads are found to need something to be done to them—I am talking of provincial roads—then that is not too bad.

Of course, we give substantial grants to the municipalities every year. I know they are not as much as the municipalities would like to have. The municipalities then must set their priorities concerning how they spend those dollars, whether they do reconstruction, new roads or resurfacing. We work with them and we advise them. But we happen to believe in local autonomy and in letting the local municipality make that decision.

Mr. Wildman: If you give them enough money, they will make up their own minds.

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Snow: If the member for Victoria-Haliburton (Mr. Eakins) does not believe that, I had a delegation of citizens from his riding in to see me the other day wanting me to interfere and to overrule the Victoria county council on a decision the county council had made to upgrade a road called county road 24. I told these people: "That is a decision for the county roads committee to make. If you have a beef with that decision, go and see the county roads committee; they are the ones who have to make that decision." If the member does not agree with that, fine; but that is what I told his constituents.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Revenue. The minister will recall that on Friday I asked him about the Clarkson Gordon report, which pointed out the inadequacy of the auditing in the small business development corporation program.

At that time the minister commented that losses sustained by the program had been minimal. Is the minister now aware of the defrauding of the SBDC of \$450,000 by Mr. Ralph Lambe? Can the minister inform the House if he is aware of similar cases? If so, how many are there, since the government has invested some \$70 million in this program?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I am aware of the situation the honourable member mentions. He will also make note of the fact that the man has been given a three-year term in jail.

The design of this program is such that we are dealing with risk capital. When one is dealing with risk capital sometimes one takes a risk, and this is one that was taken.

Auditing is not done on a regular basis. We have reports from SBDCs once a year. We have reports—affidavits, in fact—when funds are brought down from the trust account, and it is only natural that there are going to be cases in which things go wrong. In those cases we investigate and take appropriate action.

Mr. Philip: I am not sure whether the minister is saying that sending people to jail is the purpose of the program or the consequence of the program. In any case, can the minister inform the House, since he refused to answer or conveniently ignored my question, whether there are any other similar cases that he knows about? Is his ministry or is the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) currently investigating other cases of a similar nature? Can he assure the House that the audits that were requested in the Clarkson Gordon report will be implemented so that the taxpayers' money will be protected?

3:10 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Additional audits were undertaken coincident with the recommendation of the report the member is speaking of. In any program of this sort there will naturally be cases in which people perhaps attempt to defraud the government. When it is suspected these cases are occurring, a proper investigation takes place. We are certainly not in the business of jailing someone before we find out if he is guilty of anything.

Mr. Philip: Are there any other cases or not? Why do you—

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. He will recall that on June 25 I asked a question about the possibility of 41 surgical beds being closed at Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital. As part of the minister's answer he indicated, on page 2825 of Hansard, that this was not acceptable. He gave us reason to believe he would do something about it. I draw to the minister's attention that those 41 beds were closed and are closed today.

As a direct result of that, on Tuesday of this week six elective surgeries had to be cancelled. That is the second time in a month that surgery had to be cancelled at K-W Hospital.

I checked with the two local hospitals yesterday and found that although no additional surgeries were cancelled, things are very tight. My obvious question of the minister is, given his statement of June 25, and recognizing that he or his staff has spoken to representatives of those hospitals somewhat recently, what does he intend to do now? Does he intend to allow surgeries to continue to be cancelled?

Mr. McClellan: Why does the minister not study it for a while? Is that not his job, to study things?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) knows I am much more decisive than that.

The decision to close beds is not uncommon at that time of year. I am especially concerned if they are still closed.

Mr. Sweeney: They have been closed for a year.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Let me explain why it is not uncommon in June. It is because staff vacations, including those of physicians, nurses and others, often dictate that will be the case. As well, the demand for elective surgery and other procedures declines substantially during the summer months because they are elective procedures. People choose to have their summer vacations rather than go to hospital.

Mr. Sweeney: That is not what we are talking about.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Just a moment. We are talking about a time of year when the demand is reduced and the staffing is such that the staff support is diminished as well.

I do not know why those beds are closed at the moment. I assure the member I will find out. If they are closed for reasons that the hospital alleges are related to funding, then I want to know why. If, like other hospitals, it was brought up to its operating level of cost a couple of years ago, I want to know why the management of its funding should have deteriorated in such a short time to a point where it claims it has to close beds. I obviously want to know the answers to that and I will find the answers to that.

The other thing I emphasize is that the cancellation of elective surgery from time to time, and I should think much more frequently than the member has cited in the case of Kitchener-Waterloo Hospital, is not uncommon. It is impossible for hospitals or anyone to predict the intermittent increases that occur in emergency cases. When elective procedures are scheduled well in advance of the time, and if there should be an increase in emergency cases brought to the hospital, which it must deal with on a priority basis, that often means the beds which were allocated for purposes of elective procedures are taken up. That is not uncommon. It may or may not bear any relationship to the fact that some of the beds were closed. I shall get the answer for the member and respond at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, can I have a supplementary?

The Deputy Speaker: I am sorry. The time for question period has expired. The member will have to deal with it another time.

PLANE CRASH

Mr. Pollock: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I would ask that all members of this House join with me in paying tribute to Grenville Martin, who died yesterday in a tragic plane crash just north of this city. Not only do I extend sympathy to his family, but also to the family of Ross McNaught, who was a resident of Tweed and whom I knew personally, and to the family of the pilot of the plane.

Mr. Eakins: Mr. Speaker, on a point of personal privilege: I think it would be appropriate to join my colleague the member for Hastings-Peterborough in expressing on behalf of the Liberal Party our regret at the news of the tragic plane crash yesterday which claimed the lives of three gentlemen.

We were especially saddened in our riding to learn of the death of Grenville Martin, who is a very respected gentleman and the owner of G. W. Martin Veneer Ltd. in Harcourt. I am sure

that we join with the other members of the House in paying tribute to his memory today.

MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: You may recall when you were in the House earlier this week that the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) indicated to the House that he does not make major announcements outside of the Legislative Assembly and yet—and you will be sympathetic to this as an individual member of this House—yesterday he was in Niagara-on-the-Lake making a major announcement. In effect, he capitulated to demands of the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) and myself for a major health study in the Niagara region.

I commend him for that, but you would agree with me, Mr. Speaker, that the announcement should have been made in the House.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, there has been an allegation made on the floor of this House which I think invites response by way of at least a protest on a matter of personal privilege.

The honourable member has alleged I said in the House, on an occasion he does not specify, that I do not make any announcements or any important announcements outside the House. If he correctly recalls my words, I think I said I would not make any announcement of important policy outside this House. I have always felt that way and still feel that way. In this particular instance which has irked him, the policy has long since been established and the policy is one of great sensitivity on the part of this government in responding to the needs of the people of this province. That is the policy.

That was not an innovative announcement. The particular announcement I made was of a programmatic nature, of a grant to the good folks of the Niagara Peninsula to carry out an extensive health study. That is not a policy announcement.

The Deputy Speaker: I appreciate this has been a burning matter between the two members but neither point was a point of privilege.

REPORT

STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Mr. Sheppard from the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with a certain amendment, Bill Pr19, an Act respecting the City of London.

Motion agreed to.

3:20 p.m.

MOTIONS

ESTIMATES

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that the estimates of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Labour be transferred to the standing committee on general government.

Motion agreed to.

MOTION TO SET ASIDE ORDINARY BUSINESS

Mr. Bradley moved, seconded by Mr. Elston, that pursuant to standing order 34(a), the ordinary business of the House be set aside in order to debate a matter of urgent public importance, namely:

The province-wide community college teachers' strike, which has deprived hundreds of thousands of college students of instruction;

The impact of this strike on students who were expecting to complete their terms within the next few weeks, and the effect this strike will have on their immediate employment prospects;

The failure of this government to encourage and facilitate the bargaining process, resulting in a breakdown of negotiations and, ultimately, the strike action;

And the failure of this government to adequately fund the college system, thereby forcing the colleges to place greater work load demands on the part of their teachers, a consequence which will have a direct and negative effect on the quality of education offered by our province's colleges.

The Deputy Speaker: I mention to all members that the motion of the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) was received in good time and he has five minutes to state his case. For the member's advice, I would say the motion probably was in order down to "the province-wide community college teachers' strike" comment. The rest probably should be more correctly in your debate.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, are you suggesting that is editorializing within the motion? I will take that into consideration in any future notices of motion.

If there is one issue at the forefront of interest in Ontario politics today it is the unfortunate breakdown of negotiations, particularly with respect to the strike taking place at community colleges across Ontario. We have, I believe, some 120,000 full-time students who are in-

volved in community colleges from one end of the province to the other and some 500,000 part-time students who are taking advantage of the opportunities presented by community colleges.

We have a situation where students are expressing the gravest of concerns about their own futures, where teachers themselves are concerned about what is happening in the college system and where the general public is not pleased to see the present circumstances.

Unfortunately, many students are wondering what to do at present. Many are contemplating quitting the year if there is no opportunity to continue their education within the near future, particularly those who are going out of town to the various colleges in the province. We hear parents and students talking about one reason, that they have board or rent to pay. Also, they have tuition to worry about, the loss of that tuition and the expenses incurred in being out of town.

There is no doubt that there is a good deal of concern about this among the students and parents. I think among all parties there is a desire to see it resolved through the collective bargaining process. Justifiably or not, and the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) may disagree, if we look at what has happened at this time, the perception I detect out there is that the minister has sided with the Council of Regents. I think members of this Legislature gained that impression on Tuesday. Certainly, representatives of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union have indicated very clearly they felt the Minister of Colleges and Universities was at least tilting towards the employer's side in this dispute.

We recognize that what is happening out there is affecting everyone in the province, including the teachers in terms of their employment circumstances. Most important, students who are on shorter-term courses can see themselves losing their courses as a result of this, and students who are on longer-term courses that would normally terminate in May are concerned that even if there is only a relatively short pause in their education, there is still going to be the consequence of extending the school year in some way. When they are competing for jobs with university and high school students in late May or June, they are not going to have the same advantage as others.

All of them recognize the consequences of the underfunding of the system as it relates to community colleges, and we could extend that to

other parts of education. They see it as part of the real crisis that exists today. They see it as one of the compelling reasons for the Legislature to be dealing with the matter.

If one listens to the telephone calls coming into constituency offices, the letters we are receiving and the personal encounters we each have, particularly those of us who have a community college in our area, those kinds of encounters reveal a genuine concern about this and a concern that the Minister of Colleges and Universities is not taking the appropriate action to bring the two sides in this dispute together to resolve it.

While there are disagreements between the two sides, we know they are not so far apart that they cannot reach some kind of agreement. In previous days the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), the Colleges and Universities critic of the Liberal Party and I have all indicated clearly that we feel the Minister of Colleges and Universities should take, first of all, an impartial role and, second of all, a prominent role in bringing the two sides together, talking about the consequences that exist and ensuring we have some meaningful negotiations that will produce a settlement satisfactory to all.

It is our view in the official opposition that this is the responsibility of the minister. We have a strike that is affecting the entire province, a strike that I am certain the people who are out on strike, the teachers themselves, do not want but feel compelled to engage in because of the circumstances they face; a strike the students do not want, because of the consequences for them; and a strike the general public does not want.

I appeal to the House for approval of a discussion of this matter of great importance this afternoon.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I would like to support the call for an emergency debate on the crisis that affects the college system in this province today as a result of the strike that has been under way for two days.

Obviously this strike has two levels of crisis and two levels of emergency. The first is the crisis and the emergency that attend the students, who must complete courses and who have gone to those institutions to receive training to become competitive, skilful participants in our work force. They deserve to have their studies completed at the earliest possible moment. There is no question that there is an emergency and a crisis in that respect, and all of us wish to see that issue resolved as quickly as possible for their sake.

At the same time, I might refer to the fact that the Canadian Federation of Students—Ontario/Ontario Federation of Students has indicated its concern with respect to the central issue of the strike, namely, the quality of education in the colleges; this is what the strike is essentially about.

The second level of the crisis we face is simply the fact that this is the tip of an iceberg. This is the event that enables us to view as if through a telescope the larger scene in the colleges so as to put in perspective what has been happening during the last half dozen years in college funding, college hiring practices and college work loads.

I refer the House to a series of reports that indicate this cumulating problem. In the first place there is the college growth report of 1981, which the minister never did release in full, which she never did publish and which she has sworn recently she never will publish. It indicates quite clearly the remarkable growth in the system and the remarkable underfunding. It also indicates quite clearly that the real demand for services is not being met with a quality response because, as it says, services are decreasing to such a degree that some valid and necessary services can no longer be provided, given the funding available.

I move on to the analysis of unit operating costs, the so-called productivity report, which states very briefly that if the colleges had operated in 1982 as they did in 1978-79, the resource requirements in 1982-83 would have been about 25 per cent higher than was actually the case. Twenty-one per cent more faculty members would have been used, administrative staff numbers would have been 46 per cent higher and there would have been 21 per cent more support staff. That gives members some indication of the direction.

3:30 p.m.

When one looks at the Employee-Employer Relations Committee work load survey of 1983-84, one sees that the work load levels reported there exceed in all categories the maxima set out in the contract, which I have in my hand, between the Ontario Council of Regents for Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology and the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

Obviously that has an impact on quality. The students in the system are being shortchanged. The work force, whether it is support staff or faculty, is being overloaded. Beginning these negotiations in those circumstances, one would

have to say the employer in this circumstance has a great deal of nerve in moving the proposal that the work load levels have their caps removed. Over time, the employer saw some wisdom in retaining a cap on the work load provisions. The employer then turned around and suggested that unspecified and unlimited assignments might be added as a matter of contract to the limits that would remain in the contract. That is doing the same thing in a circuitous way.

The minister who is responsible in these circumstances undoubtedly has difficulty separating herself from the position of the employer in question. In fact, it has been her policies that have forced that employer to take that position and to overload all participants in the college system—the students, faculty and support staff. The whole system has been overloaded as a result of her policies.

It seems to me that when we listen to that employer saying he is going to take a hard line with respect to work loads, and in fact he proposes to make no adjustments whatsoever as far as the time line that he looks down the road to as his scenario, then I think we have a major crisis in hand. On the one hand there is the immediate problem of the strike and its impact on students; and on the other there are the policies and pressures that underlie that event.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I recognize the motivation for the suggestion that there should be an emergency debate today. This is a very emotional subject at the present time and understandably so. The several hundred thousand students who are affected, either directly or indirectly and more or less severely, are very much concerned about what is going to happen to them.

We have explored with the various colleges the directions they may take. As I said to the House earlier today, there are different directions being taken by different colleges. The means of satisfying or solving some of the problems is most certainly within the hands of certain of the institutions at the present time.

This matter is a matter of negotiation, a matter for collective bargaining as the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act has determined. The negotiations that take place between support staff for one and faculty of colleges for another with the colleges themselves take place at the central bargaining table through bargainers who are employed by the Council of Regents for that purpose and who keep in close touch with each of the colleges throughout the preparation for

bargaining and throughout all of the negotiations.

It is unfortunate that a number of things occurred, all of which I would consider to be unfortunate in terms of the relationships between the bargainers at the bargaining table and the relationships that were established and the kinds of attitudes that seem to be being presented at the bargaining table, none of which I believe was conducive to finding a settlement.

It is a matter of grave concern to the government and to the colleges that there is a dispute which has occasioned a cessation of activity in the majority of college programs throughout the province at the present time. What we are attempting to do is to work as diligently as we can with all those who have the capacity to provide us with informed opinion and expert information to develop the kind of situation that will encourage and induce both sides to come back to the bargaining table to negotiate a settlement.

It was with some surprise today that I heard the leader of the third party suggesting something which was perilously close, I thought, to the suggestion that we might legislate an end to this dispute. I did not believe that was—

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I do not like to have to say this, but in a way that has become her trademark the minister is completely and utterly misrepresenting my views, and I do not appreciate her doing that. Those are not my views.

The Deputy Speaker: Order, please. Would the honourable member please resume his seat.

Mr. Rae: I ask the minister to withdraw her remarks. They do not represent my views in any way, shape or form.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. If the member still feels so strongly at the conclusion of the debate, he should bring this point of order then.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If I am misinterpreting the leader of the third party, then I do apologize for that. I will reread Hansard, but I was concerned with what I thought I heard him say and I was surprised because I did not think he would say that.

Mr. Rae: I never said anything like it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Then I will reread Hansard and clarify it for myself, but I have withdrawn the comment.

Mr. Rae: Two steps forward, three steps backward.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It would be less than productive if at this time we were to interfere

with what appears to be a reasonable degree of progress in the establishment of some improved information which will provide the foundation for further negotiations.

It is obvious from the debate that has taken place in the House thus far today that there is no way we can be as objective and as straight-visioned as perhaps we all need to be and provide the kind of assistance that I presume the member for St. Catharines would hope to provide by such a debate.

It would be a direct interference with the negotiating process and probably an impediment to the collective bargaining system if we were to have a premature debate about this at this time in this House. Therefore, I request that it not be considered.

The Deputy Speaker: I find the motion to be in order. Therefore, the question to be decided is, shall the debate proceed?

4:03 p.m.

The House divided on whether the debate should proceed, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes

Allen, Bradley, Breagh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, Di Santo, Eakins, Elston, Epp, Kerrio, Laughren, Mackenzie, Mancini, McClellan, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Philip, Rae, Renwick, Riddell, Ruprecht, Ruston, Spensieri, Swart, Sweeney, Van Horne, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Nays

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Bernier, Brandt, Cousens, Cureatz, Dean, Elgie, Fish, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Havrot, Hodgson, Kells, Kennedy, Kolyn, Leluk, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McCague, McEwen, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Mitchell, Norton, Piché;

Treleaven, Pollock, Pope, Ramsay, Runciman, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Snow, Stephenson, B. M., Sterling, Stevenson, K. R., Villeneuve, Watson, Wells, Williams.

Ayes 32; nays 48.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

The Deputy Speaker: Before moving to the orders of the day, I would share with honourable members that, pursuant to standing order 28, the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) has given notice of his dissatisfaction with the answer to his question of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) on October 15 concerning hospital

overcrowding. This matter will be debated at 10:30 p.m.

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS IN ORDERS AND NOTICES AND RESPONSES TO PETITIONS

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to table the answers to questions 334, 417, 504, 528, 529, 530 and 531, all standing in Orders and Notices; also, responses to the petitions presented to the Legislature, sessional papers 148, 149, 153 and 155 see Hansard for Friday, October 19.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS CO-ORDINATION OF EDUCATION POLICY

Mr. Gordon moved, seconded by Mr. Treleaven, resolution 31:

Recognizing that the rapid societal changes occurring in Canada represent similar challenges to education policymakers in every province across Canada, it is the opinion of this House that the government, through the ministries of Education and Colleges and Universities, work to encourage strengthening interprovincial educational organizations, such as the Council of Ministers of Education, in order to effect better co-ordination of education policy planning between Ontario and other provincial education systems and agencies nationwide.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I wish to put forward a resolution that centres on an issue of fundamental importance to every Ontario citizen and, indeed, every Canadian.

Education has been, and will continue to be, the key to meeting our nation's social and economic development. It was the dedicated work and foresight of people such as Egerton Ryerson, who in the mid-19th century recognized that "education was a public good" that would fit children to be "honest and useful members of society," that enabled Canada to forge ahead to become one of the world's industrial leaders.

4:10 p.m.

Now, as knowledge continues to transcend intellectual boundaries that will radically affect our entire social and economic structure, we must prepare to address further changes. Such challenges we have faced before and will continue to face in the future, because we must and they are crucial to our survival as a nation and our future prosperity.

To do so, we must foster an atmosphere of greater co-operation between those autonomous jurisdictions responsible for the various aspects of education policy in Canada. It is only with strengthened and flexible forums of intergovernmental co-ordination and idea exchange between education policymakers that we can engage in this constructive dialogue seen by Canadians as fundamental to addressing every major challenge we face.

The Council of Ministers of Education of Canada has already made great strides in this direction. Founded in 1967, the council endeavours to focus and harmonize the disparate education policies of the individual provinces. Over the years, the council has also evolved into a national body representing and articulating relevant policy positions and points of view to the federal government.

In particular, one thinks of the critical role the council played and continues to play in the established programs financing debate between Ottawa and the provinces. In addition, the council is the body that provides national presence and involvement in the sphere of international education matters.

In the past year, the most extensive international activity has been with the two education-related bodies of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the education committee and the governing board of the Centre for Educational Research and Innovation. Currently, the main priority of these two bodies is the completion of an analysis of the changing nature of the interaction between education and the socioeconomic situation since the early 1970s.

The Council of Ministers of Education should be proud of its accomplishments over its 17-year history. The accomplishments in both the national and international spheres have made a lasting contribution to education in this country. Ontario's participation in these efforts has always been significant. Ontario Ministers of Education have frequently served as chairman of this council. In fact our colleague the member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) just completed three terms in this position.

Most recently Ontario's eminently qualified Deputy Minister of Education, Dr. Harry Fisher, has been appointed director general of the council. I am certain his contribution to this body will be as significant and lasting as his contribution was to the Ministry of Education.

I am confident all members of this assembly join with me in my applause of the accomplishments of the Council of Ministers of Education

and Ontario's significant contribution to it. I know they will also agree with me when I say that such bodies need to be strengthened if we are to successfully face the enormous challenges which will bring us into the 21st century.

The technological era of information-base societies is now upon us. It has changed our perspective on the structure of our socioeconomic environment. It has necessarily forced us as a Canadian society to re-evaluate and redirect our future objectives and goals.

During the public hearings and presentations to the commission on Canada's future, the Macdonald commission, perhaps the most comprehensive airing of public viewpoints ever seen in this country, education figured prominently as an issue in which there must be greater national co-operation and consultation.

There were many voices representing each sector of our society. I believe that we must all listen very carefully to what these individuals are telling us about education and the future. For example, one such voice was the president of the United Steelworkers Local 6500 in Sudbury, Ron MacDonald, who said in his submission:

"We must examine our approach as to what we are to produce from our educational facilities. Those who are graduating have to be prepared so they may compete in our society because of many technological changes. These changes will continue to escalate. Those who are in our educational system must be given every opportunity to fill the job opportunities that will be available."

There are job opportunities available now that are not being filled because of a lack of qualifications. We must also provide training facilities for not only the unemployed, but also for those who are employed so that they may acquire the necessary skills to perform the work that will be available. The billions of dollars that are being expended in unemployment insurance, welfare and short-term make-work programs could be better utilized to provide training to allow the individuals every opportunity to develop their abilities, knowledge and skill.

It would be a much improved situation if we emphasized training and education instead of unemployment and welfare. If we can pay out billions to have people unemployed, surely we can spend the same amounts on training and education. Our thinking has to change in this regard to one of how to employ people and prepare them prior to employment in our society, not to one of paying them not to work.

We live in a country that is rich in resources, one that can compete with any country in the

world if we are given the opportunity. We should be developing our natural and human resources.

David Johnston, principal of McGill University, told the commissioners, "It is becoming increasingly clear that Canada cannot achieve a national economic policy without a national consensus on desirable educational goals."

The Business Council on National Issues reinforced the need for a national perspective on education. "It is clear," they argued, "that the lack of a labour force trained to use the technologies of the future and unable to adapt to changes is a major weakness in our industrial system. For this reason we suggest that the federal and provincial governments spare no effort in devising a more coherent national policy in respect of education, skill training and retraining. The objective should be to replace duplication, to cease training people for occupations not likely to be in demand and to develop a truly national policy in this critical area to replace the current ineffective hotchpotch of policies."

Other organizations brought a different, but equally important and valid, perspective to the need for a national education policy. But while there was a decided feeling that a national perspective should be put on education policies, there was also the underlying recognition that education always was and will remain a provincial responsibility.

As the former president of the Quebec Commission on the Study of Vocational and Socio-Cultural Training for Adults articulately stated it: "The responsibility in matters of education lies with the provinces. The federal government of Canada must, therefore, respect the various jurisdictions and their cultural diversity."

Such viewpoints epitomize the need for strengthened interprovincial educational organizations. Everywhere one turns one hears yet another call for national co-operation to ensure the adequacy of Canada's response to the technological era we find ourselves in. Our emerging technologies and information-based economy now demand far more consultation and co-operative sharing than ever before.

As the former chairman of the Council of Ministers of Education stated in her message in the annual report of the council, "It is time we built upon our similarities, diverse as they may be, rather than to concentrate on our difficulties and conflicts." Such an attitude will result in significant savings and a more efficient allocation of available educational resources in both human and dollar terms.

For example, the priority that the Council of Ministers of Education has attached to the impact of new information technologies in the classroom has resulted in the development of an interprovincial network for information sharing. Such developments will make available to all provinces the experience that some provinces, such as Ontario and Quebec, have gained in developing their own educational computers, and software will also be available for all to share. Members will agree that such information networking will serve to advance education for all Canadian children rather than just for those few living in select provinces.

Greater intergovernmental co-ordination in the area of skills training and higher education will lead to a more rational allocation of resources throughout the provinces. For example, our province is the acknowledged leader in training in the applied arts and technology field; thus members will agree that it makes sense for Ontario to concentrate its educational resources in these areas while encouraging other provinces to concentrate their resources in their areas of relative strength.

The ultimate outcome, members will agree, will be a far more efficient allocation of resources throughout all the provinces. More important, this type of co-operation will maximize the value of our most precious resource, our young and aspiring children and youth. The entire country will be richer as a result. Why? Because investment in human capital is the key to productivity growth and new industries.

A New York Stock Exchange study of the Japanese example illustrates this point clearly. Analysts concluded that the single most important factor in high Japanese productivity, and thus in their high relative welfare, is the high quality of that country's education system. Members will agree, therefore, that the future of Canada depends on having knowledgeable workers who can function, and indeed excel, in an information-based economy. To achieve this will require strategic planning that must involve a mix of enhanced research and development, professional training, technical skills and general education.

To address this challenge adequately will require the co-operation of every individual Canadian and institution, but it is only with a strengthened political will on the part of all political institutions that this increased institutional and intergovernmental consultation and co-ordination will be achieved. I dare say many

will view this as a challenge too great to be met. To those, I say it must be met.

4:20 p.m.

For too long we have seen acrimonious intergovernmental conflicts, particularly federal-provincial conflicts, that lead to a waste and misallocation of valuable resources. Competing educational programs, policies and objectives serve no one; instead, they hurt everyone.

With the recent welcome change of government in Ottawa, I believe we are now finally entering a period of renewed intergovernmental co-operation and consultation. The resulting effects will reverberate throughout every sphere of our nation, but nowhere will they be more evident than in the sphere of education policy.

Thus, as members of this assembly, I believe we have a duty and a responsibility to see that as a province and a country we succeed and not fail in meeting the technological challenges of the future. In this light, I urge all members here this afternoon to join me in supporting this resolution in order that we may register our convictions that education, while a provincial responsibility, is a national priority.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, if I did not know better, I would think that one of the multitudes of staff in the government caucus office had dreamt up this resolution and even written the fine speech that has been put forward by the honourable member. I am actually surprised, knowing the member's fighting spirit when it comes to issues of the Sudbury basin and the province in general, that he did not think up something a little more compelling than the prospect given to us in ballot item number 22, "that we work to encourage strengthening interprovincial educational organizations."

I have observed that almost every department of government, or ministry as they are known in this jurisdiction, has a yearly meeting somewhere in Canada wherein all the ministers get together with selected staff members. They are entertained well at public expense. They go to the best theatres in the provincial capital where they are, or if the meeting is in the summer at St. Andrews-by-the-Sea or one of these classy spots, they no doubt have formal meetings. I have heard it said by ministers who are asked about it that the real exchange comes in the informal time when probably the thought process is stimulated and an exchange of views on a more interpersonal basis is accomplished.

I am simply saying that we have had the interprovincial communications and formal structure in education and almost every other provincial

responsibility for many years. Even though that is the case, Ontario still finds itself, even though it has been exposed to educational leadership in many other jurisdictions, being in the caboose of the educational train in this country.

We are just rather tentatively moving away from a 13-grade system. The fearless Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson), who said at one time that we would do away with grade 13, has moderated that considerably. When the boys in the back row told her that maybe this was not the thing to do in Primrose Centre, she said that perhaps we will for some students but not for all, and that it will be phased in over a number of years.

The decisions of previous Treasurers of the province have decided that our funding of education on a per capita basis is going to be reduced compared with that of most other provinces. We find school boards facing the responsibility of relatively lower grants from Ontario and, thus, finding it necessary to raise taxes for education purposes, relative to previous tax levels, in community after community.

I really wish the honourable member, who is concerned about uniformity to some extent or having "better co-ordination of education policy planning" would look at some of the lack of co-ordination within Ontario itself. We have very little, if any, parallel approach to curriculum in schools across the province or even in the jurisdiction of a single school board. I would suggest to him that he could go into classes with the identical names in high schools not two miles apart and find that the curriculum was substantially different, the timing of the materials had no relation one to another and even the textbooks and study uses were completely at variance one with another.

I never have and never would advocate a lockstep approach to an educational curriculum, but I believe that in the last decade the so-called reforms in education have done much to depreciate the value of a system that at one stage, even when I was Education critic in one of my previous incarnations, I told the then minister was really second to none on this continent.

I do not believe that now. I believe the cafeteria approach to an educational style has been proved to be nonproductive, or to be productive of an approach to education that has given us pause when we look at the quality of our graduates, particularly as they go on to post-secondary education.

The idea that this House ought to suggest to the minister that she should, according to the words

in the motion "work to encourage strengthening interprovincial educational organizations" makes me feel that the author of the motion himself might take a very short course in clarity of expression of the written word. I think I know what is intended here, but it is not even a Mom's apple pie resolution as far as I can see.

I suppose when we look at the provision of alternative school financing in other provinces and see that separate schools have had full and parallel financing in many other jurisdictions for many years, while we in this province have gone through all the divisive, acrimonious debates that resulted in depriving the separate schools of proper financing since Confederation, it might have been a good thing if various Premiers and Ministers of Education had looked beyond our borders for leadership in this connection.

My own feeling is that voting for this resolution might simply persuade successors to the Minister of Education to feel that we are giving them a rubber stamp to have more of these meetings in the luxurious accommodations in the various provincial capitals across the country. They set up their own internal bureaucracy with—what is the title the honourable member said our own deputy minister has in the present interprovincial organization? Director general or something like that? Presumably, this carries with it a special staff.

Naturally, the director general would have to go province by province to establish the agenda for a meeting that is to be held some time in the summer in one of the summer resort facilities in one of the provinces, and presumably our deputy minister is paid in the top rank of civil service salaries, always reported to this House 18 months out of date. Frankly, I do not like these top people to get the habit of travelling across Canada on responsibilities and duties that are not directly in line with the responsibility of giving leadership in our own education system. I really am going to be hard pressed indeed to support even a resolution like this, which is pretty well innocuous.

Frankly, I have a great deal of confidence in the present Minister of Education that she would not allow this and increase her already ballooned budget; that is ballooned in nonproductive expenditure and starved in the kind of expenditure that would support the sort of education system that all of us in this House would wish and that many people on the other side still think we are providing in spite of the facts in the case. One thing for which I do not wish to blame the minister is throwing money around on silly exercises like establishing more interprovincial

committees, which are simply going to provide busy work for the platoons of top administrative executives who over the years have stuck to that ministry like flies to flypaper.

4:30 p.m.

I do not even find it within my ability to congratulate the honourable member for an initiative in this regard. If I were going to be really nasty about it, I would say that the importance of the resolution is shown by the lack of interest in attendance in the House, particularly on the government side, which as usual is just a sea of empty blue faces and a few of the workers in the political vineyard making up lists for their favourite leadership candidate.

I regret this very much. I do not congratulate the member for bringing forward this resolution. I think the idea is absolutely cockamamy. We have had all sorts of opportunity to improve our educational system by doing the good things they do in other jurisdictions. This minister and her predecessors have failed to do that over the years. I certainly do not want to establish one more junket for several deluxe carloads of education officials from Ontario to traipse back and forth across the country, dining on the best lobster and listening to the erudite conversation that is stimulated by that approach.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on this resolution. I intend to oppose it. I must say I was tempted. It is one of those very high-minded pieces of irrelevancy that I am increasingly getting used to emanating from the back benches on the other side, an indication of the limitations of the position I am sure those members find themselves in.

I say "tempted" because, in certain respects, one cannot help but be concerned about national educational policy and one cannot help but be concerned somewhat about co-ordination. One realizes that there are problems in that respect, but I also reflect that what is being proposed is the co-ordination of what really amounts to nine Conservative ministries of education, none of which knows exceptionally well what it is doing in its own domain; so I really wonder about the virtue and value of the exercise.

I should say that as I reflected on this resolution it struck me that the primary need for co-ordination, for consolidation and for getting acts together lay right here in Ontario. I think we had a magnificent example of that last June when we were all so stunned to have the Premier (Mr. Davis) of this province, after all the years in which he had taken a mistaken position on the subject of the extension of separate school

funding to all years of the separate school system, propose that. I am sure there was no one more surprised than the Minister of Education herself, although she might have had a few minutes briefing on it.

Had there been some co-ordination, we might now be avoiding some of the problems in the debate over that issue that subsequently followed. It is a prime, prize and highly elevated example of the need for co-ordination right here in Ontario.

On the other hand, I think back to the earlier months of my experience in this Legislature when I became concerned about the audio library at Trent University. The minister, on the one hand, was declaring her great concern about handicapped students in the system, and yet failed to provide ongoing funding for the one institution that enabled hearing-impaired students to continue with their studies.

I extend that to another problem of co-ordination. I recall that, obviously, the minister had not consulted with the Ministry of Community and Social Services over that matter because, had she thrown them all out of universities by virtue of not providing the services to keep them there, they would have been a greater charge on the Ministry of Community and Social Services with disability pensions than they ever were as students under the Ministry of Education.

Problems of co-ordination that I think all of us must be concerned about give a suggestion that the member's resolution is misapplied or misdirected in its concern about the federal level. There is another level of co-ordination that one looks to in this jurisdiction in Ontario. That is between the minister herself and a number of the agencies with which she works in the provision of education in this province.

I think back, for example, to the long struggle between the minister, on the one hand, and the teachers' federations, on the other, with respect to the question of the college of teachers. The federations were initially interested in that subject, but the minister was laying down conditions that would have forced them virtually to abandon their federations and would have impacted on them so badly that they would not have had a hold on their membership. At the same time, she was proposing to institute another institution that would take their place but would not have the kind of effect they wanted.

They finally had to walk out of the meeting with the minister, the first time that has ever happened in a meeting between the federations and the minister. This is another problem of

co-ordination and co-operation, of finding a will to work together in the provision of education in Ontario.

I might also refer not only to the matter of co-ordination at the high level of the Premier and the minister, between the minister and other ministries, between the minister and the federations and some of the agencies with which she works, but also to a certain kind of co-ordination one might want within the mind of the minister herself. Perhaps the member could bend himself somewhat in this direction to help keep the minister herself on a straight tack.

I recall last spring when the minister, wanting to get the last ounce of mileage out of the public mood, which favoured a universal testing in the school system, proposed, through I believe it was initially the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), that universal testing should take place in the very near future. She let the notion get out that it was a secondary-school-wide system of testing she had in mind and that the public had in mind. Very soon we found her running for cover because all she was talking about was an incidental testing program on a sampling kind of basis that really was nothing like what the public had in mind. The minister herself was finding it difficult to keep the two ends together and perhaps needed a little bit of co-ordination.

The same problem afflicted the minister when it came to Bill 42, for example, with respect to colleges and universities and the proposed need the minister saw for putting a supervisor in place in every university that exceeded a two per cent deficit in its operating budget. The minister told us up and down in the estimates discussion of this matter and at the hearings on Bill 42 that she did not have the powers in her hand to secure the information she needed from universities in order to judge whether they were performing well in terms of the cost-effectiveness of their operations.

We finally had to get the Provincial Auditor to come in to the hearings to tell her she could get all the information she wanted from those institutions simply by request. There seems to be an ongoing problem with the minister as far as her own jurisdiction is concerned.

When one moves into the area of skills training that the member mentioned—and surely this is an incredibly important matter in our country today; no question—when I look at the failure of this government to institute any adequate program of apprenticeship within the industrial structure of Ontario, try as it will, I wonder whether the concern the minister has expressed that this be

addressed on a national level ought not perhaps better be resolved on a provincial level first.

To take one minor regulation with respect to apprenticeship to show the inherent contradiction that exists, it is required in a factory that one must preserve a minimum and maximum ratio of apprentices to journeymen, which is a proper provision to have, but the ministry has no method in place for discovering and maintaining a bank of information as to how many journeymen are in any factory at any given time to be able to judge the relationship.

Again, this is a contradiction. There is a need for co-ordination. One can go on and on citing example after example of the "hotchpotch," to use the member's word, that exists in education in Ontario.

4:40 p.m.

My colleague from the Liberal Party referred to the problem at the curriculum level. If one looks again at that, one sees a movement in contrary directions. On the one hand, the ministry put in place a new and more demanding secondary school curriculum program last year. At the same time, it was maintaining that there was an impressive need out there for maintaining advanced technical education. When one put the two of those together, one discovered that the Ontario Schools, Intermediate and Senior Divisions curriculum guidelines drove technical educational enrolment in the secondary school system down by 24 per cent, 42 per cent, 54 per cent and 68 per cent in certain schools across Ontario.

Overall, there was a massive impact of the one proposal on the other. Lack of co-ordination is obviously a real problem, but it is not a major and essential problem for us at the national level in the way in which it is at this time. I would suggest it might help us in this province were we to engage in some rather extensive debate on education matters in this Legislature, having in mind that both of the last two major reforms in this jurisdiction—the Hall-Dennis report and the OSIS report—were floated into this province without a single word of debate in this Legislature.

I submit that the problem of co-ordination exists; it exists in Ontario, not nationally. As I say, this piece of high-minded irrelevance is something I will be opposing.

Mr. Stevenson: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to join in the debate this afternoon in supporting my fellow member's resolution. I submit that we are talking about provincial and federal co-ordination of education policy. I think

we have drifted somewhat off topic in some of the previous debate.

I had hoped the members opposite would join the members on the government side in supporting this resolution. My colleague the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) has already discussed the need for greater and strengthened co-operation between the various jurisdictions responsible for education policy in Canada.

In my comments today, I wish to focus on one specific relationship that has done little to foster co-operation among educational policymakers in the past. In the future we think there are promises for immense improvement. I think it is interesting to note that possibly the system and the structure are there, but the co-operation has not been. Much of the strengthening may well be getting the right people in place to get the job done.

When federal and provincial responsibilities were decided upon at Confederation, it was relatively simple to see that education was a local issue and thus, a provincial responsibility, but in today's increasingly complex and complicated world, the fine line between federal and provincial jurisdictions has become somewhat blurred.

Simple delineation of jurisdictional responsibility is now impossible. That is particularly evident in situations or in cases of job training and post-secondary education. These are two areas that were virtually unheard of in 1867. The overlapping of responsibilities in these two areas has led to much conflict between the two levels of government in the past few years. We are just now beginning to emerge from that serious conflict.

No longer should members of the Legislature and members of Parliament sit idly back and tolerate impasses created by such situations as the former Liberal Secretary of State insisting that he is an equal partner in education and thus stonewalling a meeting of the Council of Ministers of Education, Canada until the provincial ministers assented to his equal status.

I have no hesitation in stating that I am confident we are now on the dawn of such a new era in federal-provincial relations. I strongly believe the federal and provincial ministers currently involved in education issues recognize their fundamental importance to the future of Canada and will act accordingly. Members will agree it is reassuring to know that the new Progressive Conservative government focus on such issues as college and university funding now will be approached in a more constructive manner rather than by ultimatums and deadlines.

Job training and retraining is another sphere I have mentioned in which federal and provincial responsibilities clearly overlap and where strengthened intergovernmental co-ordination is necessary. In Ontario, significant steps have been taken through the federal Department of Employment and Immigration and the provincial Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Under way at present are programs to assist unemployed workers to get retraining or upgrading through the province's colleges of applied arts and technology. The financing and co-ordination of such programs are shared by both levels of government; the benefits accrue to each and every Canadian.

While by now it must be evident to the members present this afternoon that I am optimistic about future federal-provincial relations in the fields of education and colleges and universities, I would be remiss if I did not inject a cautious note into my remarks.

There remain many issues that will continue to pose problems and difficulties for relations among the provincial and federal governments. Financial strains and differing policy objectives will require continued patience, skilful negotiations and goodwill if we are to attain our common objectives.

As the member for Sudbury has pointed out, education is solely the jurisdiction of the provinces. This government stands steadfastly behind the view that there is no role for the federal government in elementary and secondary education. Ottawa's role in post-secondary education and job training must be determined through mutual consultation and negotiation.

In no way does this position diminish the conviction embodied in this resolution. We want co-operation, discussion and harmonization among all provincial and federal education authorities. These are qualities I am sure we all want to preserve.

The resolution before us demonstrates and embodies this conviction. It urges the strengthening of intergovernmental relationships in the sphere of education policy while maintaining the diversity provided by the autonomy of provincial education systems. Such flexibility will ensure the attainment of national objectives and the continued relevance of education policies. It seems that members would be remiss if they were not to support such a resolution.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, first of all let me comment on the comments by the member for Durham-York (Mr. Stevenson). I remind him that while he recognizes the federal government

has no jurisdiction in elementary or secondary education, it also has no jurisdiction whatsoever in post-secondary education. He would be remiss if he had any illusions that things are going to change significantly between the federal and provincial governments simply because his Tory cousins are now ensconced in Ottawa. I suggest to him that he will find out differently.

I point out to the honourable member, as a matter of fact, that the relations between this government in Ontario and previous federal governments with respect to co-operation have not been all that great. Just a few years ago I brought to the attention of the Premier the fact that a sum of \$37 million that had been transferred to Ontario for post-secondary education had been channelled into other activities. That is something the member ought to keep in mind.

4:50 p.m.

Getting back to the resolution itself, obviously in principle what is behind it is contained in the last couple of lines. The main issue is "to effect better co-ordination of education policy planning between Ontario and other provincial" jurisdictions. It is hard to disagree with that in principle.

I can remember some of my own personal experiences in travelling from province to province in this country, from New Brunswick to Quebec to Ontario, when I was getting my own elementary and secondary education. I can remember some of the difficulties that I encountered and that many people encounter in the diversity of educational expectations. It is something that has to be dealt with.

However, I point out to the member for Sudbury, who moved this resolution, that when the present Minister of Education just a couple of years ago was the chairman of the council of ministers covering the whole country, this very issue was raised with her.

The member can go back and check the Hansard records for the estimates of the Ministry of Education at that time. He will notice that I, among others, clearly brought to our minister's attention the need to have greater co-ordination among the various provinces of Canada with respect at least to the basic curriculum courses such as mathematics, science and the study of English or French.

We know that in the areas of social studies and of studies that deal more specifically with the history of individual provinces or of provincial jurisdictions, some local control would be wanted, we understand that; but surely in the

areas of math, science and language studies there could be some greater co-operation.

I ask the member for Sudbury to go back and check the record on that, because clearly what the Minister of Education said at that time, while she was chairman of the council of ministers, was that it could not be done, that they had discussed it among themselves and that there was too much jurisdictional jealousy for them ever to have the opportunity to give up that jurisdictional control.

Therefore, before we bring in this kind of resolution, despite the fact that in principle it is hard to disagree with it, we should look at the record itself as to how our own minister had the opportunity to do something about it.

Mr. Gordon: Mr. Speaker, I listened carefully to what the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) had to say and jotted down his points as well as the points made by a number of other members such as the member for Hamilton West (Mr. Allen).

I must say that one of the members took advantage of this motion to express a parochial and rather narrow point of view. He spent the time running down the Minister of Education rather than talking about the fact that we have people living in this country who, when they move from province to province, are unable to get the courses or training that they require to be able to apply for jobs in Ontario or in other provinces because there is a lack of co-ordination between the provinces and the federal government when it comes to education.

To take the attitude that to bring this up in this House is wrong, I find to be lacking in common sense. It shows a rather narrow approach to the whole business of education and to the business of employment in this country and province.

As well, when it comes to what this government and the Ministry of Education were able to do through what we call the cafeteria style of education, where students have the opportunity to choose courses that are more closely allied to their talents, to take an elitist point of view and suggest that this is wrongheaded shows a complete lack of understanding of the democratic approach we must take and have taken to education in this province.

To take an elitist point of view, coming from the opposition, the party that is supposed to be fighting for the people and change, and to be against the average guy even getting ahead strikes me as an example of hardening of the arteries on the other side of the House. I have to say that was a third-rate and maybe even a fifth-rate answer to a motion that has been

brought forward with great sincerity and with concern, not only for the people of this province but also for the people across this country.

THERAPEUTIC USE OF HEROIN

Mr. Kerrio moved, seconded by Mr. Nixon, resolution 28:

That this House urges the government of Canada to amend the Narcotic Control Act to allow the therapeutic use of heroin by physicians to alleviate pain for the terminally ill.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): I remind the honourable member that he has up to 20 minutes to make his presentation and can reserve any portion thereof for final presentation.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, all members of the House will be familiar with those issues that come before us from time to time that are by nature nonpartisan. We all recognize them, and in fine parliamentary tradition, this House has risen above partisanship on occasions when the merits of an issue are so compelling as to warrant it.

The resolution I place before the House for consideration is a result of a presentation to the standing committee of health, welfare and social justice by Dr. Kenneth Walker, which said in part:

"Mr. Chairman, I wrote my first newspaper column on heroin in 1979. I did so because I am a practising physician and over a period of 30 years have seen many people die badly, including parents, parents-in-law and dear friends. The agony of their last days struck me as being unnecessary, cruel and inhuman.

"Since the article appeared, I have received thousands of letters from Canadians in all walks of life, asking questions about the use of this painkiller. To find answers, I have discussed the issue with many distinguished scientists, researchers and clinicians in this country, in England where heroin is used legally and at the World Health Organization in Geneva, Switzerland. This brief, therefore, contains both my own opinion and that of physicians who are experts in the management of cancer pain.

"I will try to answer any questions that your committee members might submit to me, but I trust that this brief will help put to rest much of the misinformation, half-truths and hypocrisy which surround this important issue.

"The more I researched the topic of heroin for medical use, the more convinced I became of one fact. Heroin had been denied to Canadian and US patients for political rather than medical reasons. It was an annoying conclusion. Since I was

writing a medical column syndicated to 40 Canadian newspapers read by 12 million people, I decided without hesitation to use this forum to test what I perceived as a grave injustice."

That is the end of the introduction of this particular position of Dr. Walker on the federal scene.

It is my hope today that in passing this resolution we may help right a wrong that is long overdue. Dr. Walker has spent much time and effort in researching this important cause. Many men and women dedicate themselves to medical research in lieu of private practice, and we all are the beneficiaries of their great work. Dr. Walker has been able to do both. In fact, he adds a third dimension in his writing. His practice—which includes treating patients in Fort Erie, Niagara Falls and Toronto—and his writing consume much of his time, but he still takes time to reach out in a very personal way to champion the cause of those in need of compassion in the practice of medicine. I want to raise one of those matters today.

5 p.m.

It is of medical significance, but primarily of human significance though, for it aims to provide relief from extreme pain for those people who are in need of that relief. The issue is the legalization of heroin for the use of patients who are either terminally ill or for whom no other pain relief is sufficient.

I will advise members of my personal bias up front. It is this: the potential for misuse of the drug or illegal distribution of the drug should never be allowed to overcome the potential benefits to dying patients and their families. While the use of heroin must pass a good test of administration, it cannot fail in a test of compassion. That view, I am pleased to advise, is shared by the Canadian Medical Association as recently as this past August of 1984 and by two federal members of Parliament, MP Jim McGrath, who introduced a bill that had been originally introduced by Conservative MP Walter Baker shortly before his passing from this particular dread disease.

Members will note that heroin use for medical purpose now exists in 38 countries, including Great Britain. Its use was banned in Canada in 1954 and morphine has attempted to serve as a substitute since. The people who are the best witnesses cannot appear; they are dead. I think they would really be the prime people to tell us of the agony of terminal cancer pain.

Some people have asked why heroin is superior to morphine as a painkiller. Heroin is

about two and a half to three times more potent than morphine. It is also a proven fact that heroin is more soluble than morphine. This allows more heroin to be dissolved in an equivalent solution than morphine. The increased potency plus the greater solubility is an important practical advantage when cancer victims require painkillers by injection.

No one enjoys injections every few hours under the best of circumstances, but they can be terribly painful when patients are emaciated with precious little flesh left. The more humane treatment would be to inject a few drops of heroin rather than a teaspoon of morphine every few hours. The intramuscular route for painkillers is often the only one that can be used in terminal cancer. Some patients are unable to take oral medication because of vomiting. Others have no veins left for needles because they have been destroyed by chemotherapy or the prolonged use of intravenous feeding.

Every critic of heroin admits that heroin is superior to morphine when injections are required. No study has ever shown that there is a painkiller superior to heroin. Morphine and heroin are the same, some say, because morphine breaks down into heroin. Yes, it does; but by comparison, ice and water are both H_2O , but hold them in your hands and you see the difference. Heroin is a diacetyl morphine, yet we know its properties are different from morphine.

Dr. Allen Mondzac, professor of medicine at George Washington University and director of the Warwick Cancer Clinic, made the following remarks to the United States House Subcommittee on Health and the Environment in March 1984.

"Students of pharmacology know that small molecular changes can make significant changes in the mechanisms of drug action. Simply adding two acetyl groups can do much to a drug. We know that biological differences of small degree have made the difference between inactive and active drugs. Those who dismiss heroin as a form of morphine are ignoring what are basic biological truths. It is this kind of change of the morphine radical, changing it to diacetyl morphine and creating heroin, that gives heroin its unique property."

It is estimated that about 50 per cent of cancer patients will suffer from pain. This becomes a serious management problem in at least 15 to 20 per cent of the cases. Bone malignancy and neuritic pain can be particularly severe.

For instance, a physician from a hospital in Britain said that a 17-year-old girl who was dying

of bone cancer required 1,700 milligrams of heroin every three hours. This is a huge amount when one considers that only four milligrams of heroin are required to control normal post-operative pain. British doctors stated it would be physically impossible to inject an equal amount of morphine into this young patient. British physicians also said that heroin is the best drug to stop the incessant coughing of patients dying of lung cancer.

Heroin critics claim that only three per cent of patients need heroin. If this is true, why are 80 per cent or more of terminally ill patients at St. Christopher's Hospice in England given heroin in their final days?

It is also said that we have enough painkillers to fight cancer pain. Then why are so many cancer victims dying in agony? Does not common sense demand that doctors have the maximum number of effective painkillers to combat cancer pain?

Thousands of Canadians have experienced or witnessed the terrible death of a loved one. Seeing uncontrollable pain in a parent, relative or friend has left them with psychological scars. The use of heroin would ease the suffering of the patient and the anguish of his or her family.

Some critics in this country are worried about addiction. How much addiction results from the medical use of heroin? Dr. Thelma Bates at St. Thomas's Hospital gave Dr. Walker a message to bring back to Canada. She said: "Tell Canadians and Americans to stop worrying about addiction. I have had patients on 300 and 400 milligrams of heroin but I can wean them off heroin in two to three weeks if they experience remission of their disease. Heroin is extremely addictive when taken for pleasure, but this is not the case when used for pain relief when the patient has only a short time to live. Even if heroin is addictive in terminal cases, what difference does that really make?"

The question often asked is whether the legislation of heroin for medical use would increase the illegal use by addicts. Would security be a major problem and would addicts break into hospital pharmacies to obtain heroin? This is a lame excuse for fighting the legalization of heroin. Historically, there is no evidence that this would happen.

The British handle the security of heroin in hospitals just as they do other narcotics. Dr. Saunders, the founder of St. Christopher's Hospice, said, "Over the years I have found no evidence that diamorphine prescribed for medical purposes has ever been abused or reached the

drug addict market." Again, I must stress that the potential for misuse of the drug or illegal distribution of the drug should never be allowed to overcome the potential benefits to dying patients and their families.

Like many other Canadians I assumed that since Canada had signed the Single Convention Treaty, heroin could not be used for medical purposes in this country. In fact, politicians were talking about the medical ban on heroin by the World Health Organization as recently as March 14, 1984, during a debate in the House of Commons. But in May of this year, an official at WHO in Geneva, Switzerland, said that WHO never asked Canada or any other nation to stop the medical use of this painkiller. They merely asked member nations to stop the importation of heroin in an endeavour to stop the illicit use of the drug. They pointed out that England also signed the Single Convention Treaty but British doctors were still using heroin for medical purposes with the blessing of WHO.

We know that English doctors have been using heroin for more than 80 years. This is the best trial that has ever been done. Why do we not believe them and put an end to these committees and costly studies? Consider, for instance, that in 1982 English doctors used 98.7 per cent of the legal heroin consumed in the entire world, not forgetting that these doctors had a choice of painkillers. Surely the use of heroin would have dropped if it did not possess any unique advantages. Instead, between 1971 and 1982, the amount of heroin prescribed by these physicians increased nearly four times.

5:10 p.m.

In closing, I do not presume, on behalf of those learned in the sciences of medicine, to act as an expert in this discussion. My role is to present to this Legislature the unselfish and dedicated effort of a friend, Dr. Walker, who has undertaken the task of overturning a law introduced for questionable reasons, which in turn has taken from the physician's bag a very useful drug for the treatment of pain. This resolution is a plea to the lawmakers of the nation to amend the Narcotic Control Act to allow the therapeutic use of heroin by physicians to alleviate pain for the terminally ill.

Unrelieved pain from advanced cancer should be one of the most pressing issues that concerns our society. To quote Dr. Walker: "One in four of the people here today will succumb to malignancy, and some will suffer indescribable pain. It is my opinion that this debate would end today if

every person here could suffer the pain of a terminally malignant patient for just one day."

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the resolution of the member for Niagara Falls. I was listening very carefully to the argument he made in support of his resolution. I must say I am not an expert in this matter and I do not pretend to be one, but I have read the abundant literature on the subject. I know the experts disagree; they often do, not only on this question but on many other questions.

I cannot possibly understand why the use of heroin in cases of terminally ill persons should be forbidden, unless the reasons for the opposition expressed to its use are to be found in the fact that there is a mythology in our society that derives from the fact that, unfortunately, the illicit use of heroin is so widespread and causes so many problems in modern society that people have been deterred from thinking that perhaps in the case of the terminally ill the use of heroin should be allowed.

I think that was the primary consideration in 1955, when the federal government imposed the ban on the import of heroin in response to the World Health Organization, because the primary concern was that heroin, if used illicitly, creates addiction and creates incredible social problems. We all know that.

The real question we must address in this Legislature is whether the use of heroin should be permitted in designated cases, which were elicited quite clearly in Bill C-684, introduced by the late Mr. Baker and reintroduced by Mr. McGrath, for special cases such as those of cancer patients.

We will not be able to solve the problem the experts are debating, but the fact that we and the federal Parliament, which has jurisdiction in this case, are unable to make a political decision is very serious, because we are talking about people who are terminally ill and for whom there is no question that the problem of addiction is totally meaningless.

As the member for Niagara Falls so convincingly said, the real witnesses, those who could tell us whether or not they got relief, are unfortunately dead. They are no longer with us. They are the people who could tell us whether the use of heroin as a painkiller is effective, but they cannot tell us.

I do not want to say that from a medical point of view the evidence is in favour of or against the use of heroin. We have heard all the arguments. Those who are in favour tell us that heroin is

more soluble than morphine and is therefore more acceptable to the patients.

I do not quite understand the counter-argument, which in my opinion is not based on medical grounds but rather on the fear that, as the cancer society says, if we allow the use of heroin in hospitals the people who are allowed to use heroin may be attacked by addicts and there will be more break-ins. If we accept that argument, it could be applied to many other drugs—for example, to cough syrup, but we do not prohibit the use of cough syrup for that reason.

I do not think there is a medical argument we should accept. We know there are doctors who are in favour and doctors who are opposed. We also know that the experts' advisory committee set up by the Minister of National Health and Welfare in response to the 15,000 signatures brought to the minister by Dr. Walker was biased because two of the doctors who were members of the committee were against the use of heroin.

We know well that, despite the fact that the advisory committee had come down against the use of heroin, last August the Canadian Medical Association, after a long internal debate, passed a resolution urging that the government of Canada immediately resume the licensing for importation, manufacture and sale of diacetylmorphine, which is heroin for medical purposes.

We have guarantees that it will not be misused and that the heroin will be used specifically for terminally ill patients. Above all, by using heroin we will relieve the pain of a number of people. If we were able to relieve the pain for even a single person, we should do it. For a moment, we should put ourselves in the situation of a person who is terminally ill and who is going through incredible suffering. Some of us have witnessed those kinds of tragedies in our own families.

If one person could be relieved of that suffering, I think that would justify the use of heroin, if we are sure, as we can be sure, that a mechanism is put in place so that illicit use of heroin is not propagated by the fact that we allow its use in a restricted number of cases.

5:20 p.m.

I think the legislators should make a decision that is basically political to respond to a situation that is basically human. If we have compassion and if we really believe, as the Canadian Medical Association code of ethics says, that a physician will allow death to occur with dignity and comfort when death of the body appears to be inevitable, then we know this is one of those cases.

We should not assume it is up to us to decide a person cannot die with dignity and comfort only because some people out there may use heroin illicitly. I think it is too much for us to presume that. We should keep in mind there are people who are suffering and, by allowing the use of heroin, we can relieve that suffering. Even if one person can be relieved from pain, we should do that.

For these reasons, I concur with my colleague the member for Niagara Falls. I hope the other members will also support the resolution.

Mr. Runciman: Mr. Speaker, the resolution put before us today by our friend the member for Niagara Falls addresses an issue that has been and remains one of great personal concern to me and I know to thousands of our fellow citizens. I think the resolution is both timely and appropriate. It is timely with a new government in Ottawa and a government that I think will be most receptive to this suggestion. It is appropriate coming from the member for Niagara Falls, because I believe Niagara Falls is the home base for Ken Walker. If any individual in this country deserves credit for this, it is Dr. Walker. He has fought a lonely battle for many years.

For quite a number of years, both inside and outside this House, in my private and public lives, I have attempted to impress upon the former government of Canada the need to take immediate action to redress what I believe to be a 30-year wrong. I want to thank the member for Niagara Falls for the opportunity to express, once again, in this House my support for the legalization of heroin for the treatment of those terminal patients whose suffering cannot be relieved by other drugs.

I commend the member for publicly indicating his support for this measure and I tell him most sincerely that his concern and support are appreciated by all of us who have worked to gain better, more effective treatment for those unfortunate people whose last days are spent in unrelieved agony.

I will not detail the chain of events that led to the introduction of the ban in this country. It is sufficient to say I believe the ban was not instituted for medical reasons, as other members have said, but for political ones. There was a somewhat naive belief that banning the importation and production of heroin for medical use would make the illicit use and criminal trade in the drug easier to control.

The federal government at that time and the federal administration since have argued that in banning the medical use of heroin, it was acting

in compliance with the treaty entered into with the World Health Organization. As the member for Niagara Falls indicated earlier, that was not an accurate statement of fact.

Members may also be interested to learn that the ban on heroin, introduced in 1954, was adopted in spite of the advice of the Canadian Medical Association. There has been considerable misrepresentation of the facts on the CMA's position with regard to the adoption of the ban. It has been long believed that the CMA did nothing to oppose the ban or that it gave tacit consent to the ban.

Documents obtained under the Access to Information Act indicate this was not the case. On the contrary, in July 1952 the deputy general secretary of the CMA wrote to the Department of National Health and Welfare and said the CMA's position with regard to a ban on the medical use of heroin remained as expressed by a resolution adopted by the general council of the CMA at its 81st annual meeting in Halifax in 1952. That resolution read, "Be it resolved that this general council recommend that the use of heroin by the medical profession of Canada be not prohibited."

The sad fact is that for the past 30 years health care professionals in this country have been denied the use of a potent painkiller, despite the advice of their professional association that its use be continued. The debate occurs at a critical point in the fight to legalize the use of heroin for the treatment of the terminally ill. A Gallup poll released in July of this year indicated that 73 per cent of Canadians favour the legal use of heroin as a painkiller.

After a three-year study, the Canadian Medical Association at its general meeting in August passed a resolution calling on the government to resume immediately licensing for importation, manufacture and sale of heroin for medicinal purposes.

In June a resolution to legalize the therapeutic use of heroin was passed by the Association of Ontario Boards of Health. The member for Niagara Falls mentioned the support of Mr. James McGrath, a federal member of Parliament.

However, while public, professional and political support for the legalization for the therapeutic use of heroin is growing, opposition to this sensible measure continues to exist. Perhaps the most ill-considered opposition to lifting the heroin ban is based on the claim that heroin is addictive and that patients run the risk of becoming addicts.

In the first place, to the best of my knowledge, there is no evidence to support the view that heroin is any more addictive than morphine, demerol or codeine. In the second place, what does the risk of addiction matter to someone dying of cancer? There is no reason why that person should be made the victim of a fear of a drug which has been demonized in the minds and imaginations of some.

Others oppose the legalization of the therapeutic use of heroin on the grounds that possible criminal diversion of the drug will increase heroin addiction and criminal activity. I, for one, do not believe that we can tolerate a situation in which the way we care for the sick is dictated by our fear of what criminals may or may not do.

Banning the medical use of heroin for 30 years has not eliminated or diminished illegal traffic in the drug or its illicit use. We have succeeded only in depriving patients, not pushers, of the drug while its illicit use has grown. When the ban on medical use of heroin was introduced in Canada there were about 4,000 heroin addicts in the country; today there are an estimated 18,000.

Some look at this figure and ask how many more addicts there might be had heroin not been banned. These people should take a good, long look at the British experience with heroin. The medical profession in Britain has continued to use heroin for the treatment of pain, and its use has actually increased from 1971 to 1982.

Criminal diversion has not proved to be a problem. Britain, which has more than double our population, has only an estimated 8,000 heroin addicts compared to our 18,000. Hospitals in Britain make the same security arrangements for heroin as they make for the security of other narcotic drugs which they have on hand.

It has been estimated that between 4.5 and 11 tons of illegal heroin come into the United States every year. It has also been estimated that if medical use of heroin were legalized in the United States, the total amount that might be used, under proposed legislation in the United States, would be about 500 pounds per year. Even if the total supply of heroin produced for medical use were diverted to the criminal market in any given year, it would represent only four per cent of the total amount of heroin on the street.

In any event, as I have suggested elsewhere, the legalization of heroin for therapeutic use need not add to the total volume of heroin in circulation. For example, heroin for medical use could be obtained from heroin supplies seized as a result of criminal investigations.

Over the years I have argued in support of the measure proposed by the resolution introduced by the member for Niagara Falls. I have argued that the medical use of heroin could be closely supervised, used only by prescription and with the approval of a hospital committee. I see no reason why this measure should not be adopted. The benefits to the patients more than justify its implementation.

I close with a quote from a letter I received from a very well-known physician in Kingston. A copy was also sent to Dr. Walker. "I am writing to support your stand with reference to heroin. We used this superb drug in Vancouver as late as 1968 because the Vancouver General Hospital had a left-over supply. The drug always went to the most needy. This procedure was, admittedly, illegal. No one could convince me that it was immoral. Good luck in your fight." I do not think I could say it any better than that.

5:30 p.m.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I want to begin by commending my colleague the member for Niagara Falls for expressing in a very meaningful way his strong belief that the drug known as heroin, which was dreaded by many for years for its criminal use, should be permitted to be used to treat terminally ill patients.

I have heard many say, and I think it bears repeating, that most of us cannot testify in a very personal way to having felt the kind of excruciating pain for which heroin should, and under this resolution, if adopted and if the necessary action were taken by the federal government, would be made available.

I think all of us recognize that those people who have gone through excruciating pain and who could give the best testimony to the value of the potential use of heroin are deceased. There have been those who have testified in that direction in other countries. They have had the opportunity to have heroin for that use. I guess most are now dead because most of that usage is confined to those who are terminally ill.

As legislators and individuals, we have been bombarded with considerable evidence as to why we should not undertake the kind of activity and action prescribed in this resolution. This has been documented on many occasions in columns by Dr. Kenneth Walker of Niagara Falls, to whom many have made reference in today's debate. Dr. Walker writes under the pseudonym of Dr. Gifford-Jones.

Being somewhat of a hypochondriac, I read that column and other "Dear Doctor" columns at frequent intervals. Sometimes I find them

amusing and often I find them extremely useful in diagnosing my own ailments, but the ones that have been the most serious and sombre for those of us who have read them have been those which have dealt with the terminally ill, making life at least comfortable and allowing some dignity in the last days of one's life.

I join with others in commending Dr. Walker for carrying out his crusade, in many cases almost single-handedly or at least being the most prominent and persistent person. The ones who would be most pleased with his efforts and thankful if this resolution were adopted are those who are terminally ill at present and those at some time in the future who will be terminally ill.

I recall raising this issue in the Legislature on April 30, 1982, when I asked the then Minister of Health, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), whether he would be prepared to entertain supporting this. The question was as follows:

"As the minister is aware, a significant number of people in the province have expressed the view that the drug known as heroin should be licensed for medical use to stop what newspaper columnist Dr. Kenneth Walker refers to as the 'torment of the final throes of terminal cancer and patients who are allergic to morphine or for whom that drug is no longer sufficient without many painful injections.'

"In view of the fact that 37 other countries, including England and West Germany, have legalized the use of heroin for strictly definitive medical purposes, is the minister prepared to make representations at this time to the federal ministers of Health and Justice to make the necessary changes in Canadian law to permit what Dr. Walker calls the ultimate humanitarian act to legally take place?"

The minister said he was prepared to entertain representations, but he was not prepared at that time to take the specific action for which I had asked. I find that unfortunate, but I understand the debate was continuing and many people were making counterarguments.

I also recognize, as others do in this Legislature, as those in the United States Congress recognize and as those on the federal task force who looked into this recognize, there are some risks to be taken in the legalization of heroin for medical purposes. We all know the damage heroin has done to the lives of many and their families. We know it has produced criminal profits. We also know that greater availability to doctors brings with it the risk there may be people who might consider breaking into offices and

those who might make use of it in other ways. We are mindful of the opposition which has come forward to this, some of it more thoughtful than others.

Those of us who are supporting this resolution, however, are saying that it be available as one of the options for treating excruciating pain, not that it be the sole option. People in the medical profession are aware of these needs. They are experts, they know their patients well and they know which patients would benefit from the use of heroin as compared to other drugs.

I recognize there are other painkillers. I realize that the problem of palliative care requires greater attention in its entirety. I recognize that there is a need to work on alternatives to heroin for use as painkillers, but none of those arguments is compelling enough to persuade me that the resolution proposed by the member for Niagara Falls is not a good resolution and should not be adopted by this House.

Anyone who has gone through the experience—and I suspect many members of this Legislature have, and members of the medical profession most certainly have—and watched those close to them go through the final throes of death in a very painful way cannot help but be moved to support this kind of resolution.

It is not a pretty sight to see friends, relatives and those close to us, or anyone, go through an excruciating death, often attributable to terminal cancer. I think all of us wished we had some magic wand we could wave that would at least provide the dignity of less pain in death and provide that kind of comfort; yet we do not have that magic wand. There are some drugs that can be prescribed and they are prescribed. People do their best, but we have kept away from the medical profession in this country one of the tools which could be most effective against this pain.

My friend the member for Niagara Falls has called upon the federal government to permit the use of heroin for medical purposes, and I think most of us in this House will likely support it.

The British use it. The British are not foolish people in terms of their treatment of their patients. The people in the other 36 countries that we are aware of do not have that lack of expertise either.

Many have mentioned the problem of addiction and many have stated in this House today how foolish it is to worry about addiction to the use of heroin of those who are in their last days before death and are in greatest pain. Frankly,

who cares if they are addicted to heroin at that time?

If we are to take into consideration the views of the Canadian Medical Association—and they are not a group that quickly jumps; they are a small-c conservative group in many ways, so they study very carefully before they make recommendations—we note that they finally made the recommendation that the federal government legalize the use of heroin not only for the purposes of the terminally ill, as described in this particular resolution, but also for others who experience severe pain, for instance, for burn victims and for use in obstetrics.

The resolution calls for legalizing it for use only for the terminally ill. It is a very defined resolution and it is a very supportable resolution. The Association of Ontario Boards of Health, which endorsed this in June, obviously took into consideration the arguments both for and against. If supervised carefully, if used intelligently and with compassion, I think all of us recognize that heroin can be a major tool in alleviating the pain of people who are terminally ill.

I would hope the members of this House would support this resolution. I understand that those who make arguments contra are not necessarily people trying to bring pain to those in their final days on this earth, but I think they are wrong in denying that use to those people. I think they are wrong in denying to the members of the medical profession in this province and in this country an opportunity to alleviate the pain of those who are suffering from terminal illness.

There are many problems, psychological and others, associated with terminal illness that do not involve the direct experiencing of pain, but the one that hits home constantly to all of us for those dear to us, the one problem we cannot overcome, the one we are most hopeless about, is the alleviation of pain.

The member for Leeds (Mr. Runciman) said it eloquently this afternoon. The member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) has added his voice. The member for Niagara Falls has taken the initiative. Dr. Walker has carried the banner for this and has provided the necessary positive publicity and arguments that are compelling to those of us who sit in this Legislature.

I certainly support with every bit of enthusiasm I can, this issue of the adoption of this resolution, which I hope will receive the appropriate attention of the federal government.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Breaugh: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join in with those who are supporting this

resolution this afternoon. As one who has followed this debate over a number of years, there are some ironic situations I wish to point out in the few remarks I will make this afternoon.

The matter has been debated on more than one occasion. It is interesting to read the debates in Parliament, for example, where one can find a rather rational and calm debate in which representatives from all three political parties agreed that it was a reasonable thing to provide for the therapeutic use of heroin for terminally ill patients and for others. The difficulty is that it has not happened yet.

When one goes into the background as to why there is a ban on the use of heroin, one can understand—I certainly can—why world organizations concerned with the widespread use of heroin as a drug, and particularly its illicit uses on the street, would make such a move.

It is sadly ironic that in this nation, for example, the use of heroin only happens illegally, supposedly, on the street and without any kind of supervision. Its use is banned in the place where I would think it would be most logical to use it: for therapeutic purposes in a hospital situation, where it would be closely controlled, where the quality of the drug and its usage would be carefully monitored and where one could gather some very sensible, hard data with respect to research. That would be the logical place to have a drug such as heroin used, and yet it cannot be used there.

When one looks at the Canadian research experience dealing with heroin or other drugs of a similar nature, one finds it is done rather furtively; it is not clear whether all these drugs, heroin included, are illegal or whether certain research facilities can do research on these drugs. We have virtually no research of that kind done in Canada. It seems to me that is wrong.

The use of heroin in the situation outlined in this resolution is the calm, rational and logical approach to be taken. There is proper information to be gained from such usage. The controls are there. The experience in Britain and elsewhere has proven that all the arguments about there being lots of break-ins and things of that nature, as well as the illicit use of drugs associated with it, are not real; these things do not happen.

One can sympathize with the imposition of the ban initially for reasons that are not really related to this resolution, but I feel it is time this ban was lifted and we should proceed to apply this kind of drug usage in the very limited way it is called for in this resolution.

It is very odd—this is the other irony I want to mention this afternoon—that some drugs are accepted by governments. This government makes a lot of money from the use of tobacco, for example. It also makes a lot of money from the use of alcohol and from the use of pharmaceuticals, synthetic and natural, which are produced and sold here in Canada and imported from elsewhere. All those drugs we know about. All those drugs are used widely and extensively, too widely and too extensively.

The drug we are talking about in this resolution is banned, at least in theory. But as other members have pointed out, the ban is not always effectively carried out; there are sources of it and it is or has been used in a somewhat limited way. I have not read of a big raid by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police on any of our hospitals where people have admitted the drug has been used in a very limited way. I suspect that will never happen. I suspect they know where it is being used in the Canadian experience for research purposes and are turning a blind eye to it.

The resolution before us this afternoon once again puts before legislators, as the federal bills did, the opportunity to express an opinion and to put some limits on the kind of usage. I believe the limits contained in the resolution are necessary. I believe that is the purpose for which heroin use may have some advantage in our society. The controls are there. The definition is very tight—perhaps a little tighter than I would care to have it—in saying it is only for the terminally ill, for therapeutic use, and it will be used only in a tightly controlled situation.

In those situations and in those circumstances, this resolution ought to receive the support of all the members here. Whether or not one has great fears about heroin use, one surely cannot deny that we ought to have some working knowledge, some active Canadian research on the matter, and that is what the resolution calls for.

In addition, as other members have pointed out at some length, there is a humane purpose behind the resolution: it will ease the pain of some people who are terminally ill.

The honourable member has put forward a resolution that has specificity, detailing the control and the exact nature of the result he wants. The resolution deserves the support of all members. I hope they will join with those of us who have followed this debate for some time and who are somewhat frustrated by the arguments that have been put forward.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, at the outset, I want to thank those members, particularly the member for Downsview, the member for Leeds, the member for St. Catharines (Mr. Bradley) and the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh), for supporting me in this resolution. When I opened my remarks, I read something I had a feeling for that rises above partisan politics, and I am very pleased to see support on all sides of the House for this very important resolution.

Because of earlier circumstances, the motion to set aside the business of the House, which somewhat truncated this debate, I told Dr. Walker he should not come; then I told him there might be a chance it would go on. I am pleased he has availed himself of the opportunity to hear some of the members speak, and I am particularly pleased and proud that there has been such support on all sides of the House.

I have been extremely careful and have avoided the arguments of some people who would not support this resolution. I have done that for a very good reason. It would be in all our best interests to bring those people across without causing any more friction or difficulty in bringing them to the kind of thinking that prevailed here today. I take it on myself, and I hope all members here might in the future, should the resolution pass, go to those who are opposed to it and make the kind of arguments that were made here today and bring everyone on side, if I can use that description, in the relief of suffering for those who could have such pain.

When I put the resolution and made it very specific, I was trying to put it in such a way that it could be supported on all sides of the House. I think sane heads will prevail in the future and it might be expanded and used in those areas that have been described by many physicians and many of those learned in the practice of medicine.

There is one specific area we did not touch on that bears a few moments of consideration, the fact that this drug often puts a patient who is in serious pain in a euphoric atmosphere that takes him out of touch out of touch, as it were. We have seen many friends who have been given injections of morphine and have been depressed to the point where they have no sense of what they are about.

If there are those who do not think that should happen, so be it. They could talk over that kind of treatment of their loved ones, and their physician would certainly do the will of the person suffering and/or of the family. I cannot find anyone who would criticize the ability of

someone who has very deep pain to spend the last while they have with their loved ones and to be given some lift, some euphoric state, where they know what is happening and can suffer the last days here with at least that kind of communication with those who are about them.

5:50 p.m.

In closing, I want to put something on the record that was written by Albert Schweitzer: "We all must die, but if I can save him from days of torture, that is what I feel is my great and ever-new privilege. Pain is a more terrible lord of mankind than even death itself." I suppose what he really is saying is that we are all indeed our brothers' keepers.

I hope I can get the kind of support today for this resolution that will allow me to go from these halls and see if we can get all provincial governments to support such a resolution and get the government in Ottawa to accept this in the way it is given and to put forward legislation that will allow doctors the use of this very valuable way to treat those who are suffering.

CO-ORDINATION OF EDUCATION POLICY

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Mr. Gordon has moved resolution 31.

All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

5:57 p.m.

THERAPEUTIC USE OF HEROIN

The House divided on Mr. Kerrio's motion for resolution 28, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bradley, Breagh, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, Cureatz, Di Santo, Eakins, Eaton, Elston, Gordon, Harris, Kennedy, Kerrio, Kolyn, MacQuarrie, Mancini, McCaffrey, McCague, McClellan, McLean, McMurtry, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Philip, Piché, Rae, Ramsay, Riddell, Runciman, Ruston, Scrivener, Sheppard, Stokes, Taylor, G. W., Treleaven, Van Horne, Walker, Watson, Wells, Wildman, Worton, Wrye.

Ayes 48; nays 0.

Mr. Breagh: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I will be very brief because I know other members are anxious to speak to this point of order.

We have just experienced a bit of an ironic situation where a vote was called. Members voted one way and asked for a recorded vote. During the course of the recorded vote, they voted the other way. I know the rules are somewhat silent on that. However, I do think you should address yourself to that. I think there are other members here who would like to explain why they voted against something on a voice vote and then voted for it on a recorded vote. We should afford them that opportunity.

The Acting Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Ruston: That is what you call a flip-flop.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mrs. Scrivener: Mr. Speaker, I attempted to clarify what had happened just before you received the vote from the clerk. I and some of my colleagues, with the consent of our colleagues across the aisle, stood in our places to oppose in order that we could bring in the members and have a recorded vote. We felt that it was a very important bill and that all of our names should be recorded as being in support of this important resolution.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: Can we take the bill to committee?

The Acting Speaker: It is only a resolution and you cannot do that.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate the business of the House for the coming week.

Tomorrow, Friday, October 19, and on Monday, October 22, the House will consider the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

On Tuesday, October 23, in the afternoon, we will deal with Bill 101 in committee of the whole House. In the evening, we will deal with Education Bills 114 and 119, which are here for second reading and committee of the whole if necessary.

On Wednesday, October 24, the usual committees have permission to sit in the morning.

On Thursday, October 25, in the afternoon, we will have private members' ballot items standing in the names of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) and the member for Lakeshore (Mr. Kolyn). In the evening, we will continue with debate on the 11th report of the select committee on the Ombudsman if it is not completed tonight. Then we will have debate on the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs regarding premature disclosure of reports from committees.

On Friday, October 26, we will deal with the Economics.
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Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, October 16, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 16, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

INTERIM SUPPLY

Hon. Mr. Grossman moved, seconded by Hon. Mr. Wells, resolution 11:

That the Treasurer of Ontario be authorized to pay the salaries of civil servants and other necessary payments pending the voting of supply for the period commencing November 1, 1984, and ending December 31, 1984, such payments to be charged to the proper appropriation following the voting of supply.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, since the Supply Act will not be passed, as usual, until late in the fiscal year, interim authority for government expenditure is sought, once again, by way of a motion of interim supply. The second interim supply motion this fiscal year covered July 1, 1984, to October 31, 1984. The motion I have introduced today will be from November 1, 1984, to December 31, 1984. This period of two months is within that allowed by the standing orders and I estimate the amount of money required in this period to be approximately \$4 billion.

Indicators of current economic and business activity show the economy has continued to expand since the budget. Since May, 42,000 new jobs have been created in Ontario. This continuing trend has been evident throughout the recovery. After the low point of the recession—

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would just like the Treasurer to repeat the number of jobs and the time period that has occurred in.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): There is a problem with the hearing on the other side of the House.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is not all, Mr. Speaker.

Since May, 42,000 new jobs have been created in Ontario. This continuing trend has been evident throughout the recovery. After the low point in the recession, Ontario employment has increased by 282,000 jobs. I repeat that employment is now higher than it has ever been in Ontario.

There is more good news. Employment gains have occurred widely throughout Ontario's

industries. We have seen strong job creation in almost every area—manufacturing, trade, finance and the service sectors—and also encouraging employment figures.

The economic recovery has contributed to a reduction of youth unemployment from 17.5 per cent in September 1982 to 14.9 per cent in September 1984. We have a strong commitment to improving youth employment and this will continue to be a principal economic objective.

Manufacturing shipments also point to increased economic activity. In the first seven months of this year, they were up 20.8 per cent over a year ago. Continued consumer spending is another key indicator, up 9.9 per cent over last year. Canadian steel production, much of it in Ontario, is up 17.1 per cent so far this year.

Overall growth is strong and is exceeding our expectations at the time of the budget. We now believe that real gross provincial product growth will be five per cent in 1984 compared to the budget forecast of 4.7 per cent, which so many members in the opposition suggested was overly optimistic.

The increase may be attributed to two major factors: new investment spending by business and stronger than expected growth in the United States economy.

For instance, new investment spending in nonresidential business will likely increase by 9.4 per cent in current dollars, compared with the anticipated 4.7 per cent at budget time. With inflation down, that translates into higher real investment spending.

The business community's confidence in Ontario's economy is encouraging. Investment spending by major automobile manufacturers is just one example. More than \$2 billion has been allocated to Ontario by the automotive industry. General Motors announced it will spend more than \$1 billion to expand its operations in Oshawa and St. Catharines. American Motors has committed \$764 million to build an assembly plant in Brampton, and Honda has decided to construct a plant in the Alliston area. Such initiatives will not only stimulate the Ontario economy in 1985 and future years, but they confirm the confidence of the auto industry in Ontario.

These developments outweigh the adverse impact, particularly on the housing market, of the increase in interest rates earlier this year. However, housing market prospects are brightening in the wake of recent mortgage rate decreases.

The economic prospects for Ontario in the rest of 1984 are strong and, happily, I believe the economy's growth will continue through 1985. Markets for our province's exports will be further strengthened next year, in large part by continued US economic growth.

Higher employment has resulted in real income gains that will have a significant and positive effect on consumer spending. If interest rates should rise significantly again, the outlook for 1985 could be unduly and adversely affected. However, I am optimistic that those with responsibility for monetary policy in Canada and the United States are now aware of the economic costs of future increases.

This encouraging outlook contradicts the very pessimistic predictions for the Ontario economy made, once again and as usual, by the Conference Board of Canada. The board recognizes that Ontario has grown substantially in 1984. In fact, its most recent provincial forecast indicates that Ontario will be the fastest growing province this year.

8:10 p.m.

None the less, the Conference Board forecast for 1985 is based on the premise that Canada is once again on the brink of an economic slowdown caused in large part by rising interest rates. There is no evidence that an economic downturn is at hand. I do not consider its predictions to be plausible. As far as I can determine, the Conference Board remains the only major forecaster predicting imminent economic recession.

One of the most welcome developments, and yet another indicator of the economy's strength, is the reduction of the inflation rate. The latest report on the inflation rate as of August shows an increase of only 3.7 per cent, while the increase in Canadian private sector wage settlements is only 2.1 per cent. Developments such as these indicate the continued need for public sector restraint. All levels of government must continue to reinforce this transition to a lower inflation environment. It is important that all involved begin to reduce their expectations accordingly.

This year's restraint program is working well. Compensation increases for more than 40 per cent of public sector employees have now been reported and the weighted average increase is consistent with our guidelines. Some groups are

arguing for larger increases because of raises they missed during the restraint program. The fact is that our wage guidelines have matched actual inflation during the past two years. We would argue very strenuously that they have provided stability without hardship.

Restraint, none the less, means more than limiting public sector wage increases. Careful control of spending and increased efficiency in providing services continue to be major objectives of the government. At the same time, the problem of finding employment for young people remains a special priority for us. Of the 10-point youth employment strategy announced in the spring budget, the majority are now in operation.

There are 35 youth employment counselling centres functioning throughout the province and 30,000 young people have benefited from services provided from these centres. The portion of youth works that provides a \$4-an-hour subsidy has more than 1,500 jobs already approved for young people. The Ontario youth tourism program has been announced and applications are being accepted. The Ontario youth corps program has more than 200 municipalities involved now, with jobs assigned to thousands of young people. Ontario ministries participating in youth corps have identified already more than 3,000 jobs throughout the province, and the Ontario career action program has been expanded and has enlisted close to 7,000 new trainees since spring.

The youth commissioner, Ken Dryden, is organizing Ontario youth trust committees now in various communities and our youth hotline continues to be well used. More than 6,000 calls have now been received and almost 3,000 job vacancies identified in the private sector. Throughout the summer, a number of programs for students were in place. Once again, the Ontario youth employment program gave jobs to tens of thousands of young people, getting them over the important summer period. The summer Experience program and the student venture capital program both operated well this summer, the latter program providing more than 850 loans for more than 1,000 young people.

Mr. Speaker, I would remind you that some of our programs in the youth package still remain to be announced. The Ontario youth start program is expected to be announced very shortly, and youth enterprise, which succeeds the student venture capital program, and the residential centres program are almost ready to be opened. They will make a vast difference, in our opinion,

in terms of impact on our target group, which is disadvantaged young people.

While a detailed financial appraisal of the performance of the budget will be provided with the publication of the second quarter Ontario Finances, which will arrive within a few weeks, I thought I would take a moment this evening to provide members with that kind of overview of our budget, the economy's performance to date and the introduction of our youth employment programs.

Before I conclude my remarks, I should like to welcome to this forum and to the Treasury times in the House our new critic from the Liberal Party. The new critic will have sat through many debates of this nature and debates on the budget in this assembly over many years. I know my colleague the Treasury critic from the third party will join me in welcoming him to what what has often been an informative, useful discussion.

I trust that once again this evening will prove to be an evening during which I will have an opportunity to receive some valuable and useful advice from my critics opposite. I have mostly—

Mr. Foulds: We do not have any votes in the convention. You do not have to flatter us.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You probably do not have any ideas here this evening either. However, I am trying to welcome our friend across the floor. With that, I would welcome the participation of our Treasury critic from the Liberal Party benches.

I would suggest to him it might be helpful to kick off his reincarnation in this role, and a new life for his party, by overwhelmingly supporting this motion this evening, starting a new era of opposition support not only for this motion but also for its successors and for our 1985 budget.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I was budgetary and financial critic of this party when the Treasurer was peddling insurance to his relatives on Queen Street, as a matter of fact.

I look forward to debates with the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick, with the critic of the New Democratic Party and with all members of the House. I think the Treasurer's expertise is very similar to that of the opposition who, as interested citizens, have been granted and given special responsibilities as members of this House to look after the prudent management of their affairs.

When I was critic before, the minister's predecessor's predecessor, back three or four generations, used to report surpluses to this House. That made budgetary criticism difficult, unlike the piece of cake being offered to us these

days. In those days, the cabinet was considerably smaller than it now is.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Your caucus was considerably larger.

Mr. Nixon: No, unfortunately, we had even more room in our caucus offices than we have now. However, there was a significant difference.

While there are always boosters in the Tory cabinet, those people who have never gotten over their Junior Achievement successes, it seemed to me there was always a Treasurer at the Premier's left hand and perhaps near him an Attorney General who were able to eschew the normal political responses, the normal booster speeches that their staff gave to them and they in turn gave to their staff. There was always the feeling that at least from the Treasurer, one could get it straight.

It is interesting to note that within a few weeks, the Honourable James N. Allan, a good friend of many of us here, will be celebrating his 90th birthday. During his years as Treasurer, I always felt he did not have to stretch, strain and twist himself grotesquely to put a good face on the business management of the government. He simply spoke to all of us more or less as fellow members of the board, and tried to discuss the actual business substance of the province without the blather that has come to be part of the budgetary statements of the present Treasurer and his immediate predecessors going back two.

He treated us to his very rosy view of the future. I hate to be relegated to a position where I too cannot wear rosy glasses. It is a rather select group here tonight. The Treasurer's fan club is in the gallery and behind him. Some of them were having dinner with the dentists tonight, and we hope to go next week. I am not sure what the debate will be next Tuesday night, but perhaps it will be even more enthusiastic than this one.

8:20 p.m.

However, my first piece of advice to the Treasurer is that he should give a more balanced impression of his view of the business that the province must face in the future to this House, to the community at large and to his colleagues who will be delegates at the convention in January. I can talk about the layoff of 2,500 employees of Massey-Ferguson Industries Ltd., the closure of Burns Meats Ltd. in Kitchener, and the closure of Black and Decker Canada Inc. in Barrie. I can talk about the unbelievably low prices for corn, beans, beef and pork. I can talk about the granting of Ontario Hydro rate increases more than double the rate of inflation. I can talk about wage settlements more in the five-to-seven per

cent area, particularly five per cent for the Treasurer's own employees rather than the 2.3 per cent he refers to.

While he talks about the Conference Board of Canada and the various other prognosticators, I will just tell him that the fellows who sit around the gas stove at Earl's Shell Service in St. George have been right at least as often in their view of the financial future, and they think we are facing a very difficult winter and also a difficult spring.

If the Treasurer is fortunate enough to succeed in being chosen as the next Premier of Ontario, he may find that his long-range plans are somewhat warped when he looks next spring at how his predictions have turned out, particularly when he wants to feed them into other political decisions that will be on him or perhaps on one of his colleagues or some other Tory at that time.

I just feel that perhaps he should take a little more advice on the role of the Treasurer and be more balanced in his approach; we do not need a cheerleader. Perhaps when he talks to members of the business community to urge them to increase the amounts of investment they are thinking about for their own industry or in other industries that may be useful, but in here we want the straight goods. I just have the feeling that in the instance of this Treasurer, while I have great confidence in him personally and believe he would be one of the last to mislead the members of the House or the community, I still take most of his pronouncements with more than a grain of salt when it comes to the economic future of the province.

I was interested to read in the Toronto Sun today, for example, that there is expected to be a very large investment in Canada Savings Bonds with the interest rate that is offered. By the way, the Sun leaves the Treasurer batting .600 in the leadership stakes in a little box about whom do you want for leader. There are three for the Treasurer, one that says none of them is any good and one for the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). That is not a bad start, and we hope his finish is just as powerful. We will talk about that again perhaps later tonight or on another occasion.

In the story in the Sun, one of the small paragraphs pointed out that, for the first time, the employees of Ontario Hydro will not have the opportunity to buy Ontario bonds on the basis of a payroll deduction because it is too awkward and expensive to give them that opportunity. My own feeling is that Ontario ought to be using the same sort of approach to public finance that the

government of Canada has used so successfully with Canada Savings Bonds.

Being a prudent and quite conservative farmer and parliamentarian, from time to time I put a few bucks in CSBs myself and I have found that those investments have always been good ones. Any time I put a few dollars into the stock market or something else with the very best advice, usually from my back-bench colleagues, the thing goes down the tube.

Many people have had the same experience I have had. When we see Ontario Hydro's credit reinforced by the credit of the province, I would say it really is time the Treasurer used his initiative to see that Ontario Hydro bonds were available in reasonably small denominations and in a very convenient way to investors in Ontario. Why should they not be allowed to take the same risks that investors in New York are taking in the investment in Ontario Hydro bonds? After all, they are backed by the province of Ontario, triple A for now, and we believe the citizens of Ontario ought to have a similar opportunity.

Perhaps I ought to predicate my brief remarks on this. We are voting \$4 billion tonight. The Treasurer, with some dignity, said his officials had worked this out as an intricate projection of expenditure during the next two months. As I was sitting down here and as he was making his way in with his retinue around him whispering last-minute advice in his ear, I sat down and thought: "Well, this is two twelfths of the year. Let us round off our budget at \$24 billion." So I guess we will be voting about \$4 billion. We are both right or perhaps we are both wrong. We will see, but at least we are in the same ball park.

This money is going to be spent at a time when the leadership of the province is changing. The Premier (Mr. Davis) is in Florida going to football games. He is raising money for his successor down at L'Hôtel or in Ottawa or wherever. While he is going to be in here flailing around from time to time, essentially he has already quit. I do not blame him. He is a lame duck premier. His successor may be in the House but more probably his successor is sitting down at Bailie McKeough, looking through his sheets of Canada Savings Bonds that he is going to have to clip and cash in the next few weeks, looking forward to a middling expensive campaign.

This is a period of time when the transition is really taking place for those people who feel they are on the leading edge of the transition, like the Treasurer. I do not see any others in here. The member for Mississauga East (Mr. Gregory) may have it in his mind. I have been pushing the

member for Scarborough North (Mr. Wells) for years but he will not respond. The member for Lincoln (Mr. Andrewes) has mentioned his own name from time to time. He has the looks for it, he really has, and that goes a long way, as the Treasurer will find when he comes to the campaign.

The transition is on now. I have a feeling that during the last decade plus three years we have got a bit soft around the edges. I do not say that simply to open up a vulnerable target for the Treasurer, but to imply that in this House on all sides the rigorousness with which we approach our funding of various programs has somehow become quite soft and, in my view, inadequate and approaching the unacceptable.

Here is a time when the Treasurer, who already has established quite a tough reputation in the House, in the community and among his colleagues, could take some rather interesting initiatives to harden up Ontario's reputation for being tough in budgetary expenditures and in our process for the controlling of these expenditures.

I have already indicated he might very well suggest that Ontario could embark on a public finance scheme using Hydro bonds, which are already the full responsibility, as far as credit is concerned, of the province.

Think how delighted the citizens of Ontario would be to buy those bonds in reasonably small denominations, at a guaranteed percentage interest, substantially in advance of Canada Savings Bonds. He might not be able to say they would be cashable on a moment's notice, but still they would have all of the backing of the government of Ontario.

They could be sold through the Province of Ontario Savings Office. This might cut into his bank support to some extent but after all, one wins some and loses some in politics. This is an area I would suggest he investigate very carefully indeed.

Our youth employment is a matter of some controversy. I am not going to occupy my time tonight in arguing with the Treasurer about the advantageous approach he has as an upwardly mobile politician in being able to flog this issue, along with the domed stadium and other very interesting, although there are other adjectives that could be applied, changing policy matters at a time of leadership decision.

I cannot understand why his colleagues in the cabinet would give him the domed stadium to fool around with just at the time when he is out searching for support in the community. Why it should be a part of the Treasurer's responsibility

eludes me, although maybe he is the biggest fan of baseball or some other sport.

It could be the Premier, who gave the member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) the big advantage of being the Minister of Agriculture and Food, feels that he has to balance this up and that may be why that particular plum was tied on to the Treasurer's tree.

8:30 p.m.

As far as youth employment goes, the minister has put forward a number of arguments that everything is going well, but it boils down to the fact that there are more youth unemployed now than there were when his rather elaborate and expensive announcements were made at the time of the budget.

One thing that concerns me is a matter raised in question period today about Ken Dryden saying rather plaintively that he was forbidden by the minister and those who speak for him from making any statements to the press about these programs. The minister's response was: "Why should an employee like that be talking to the press about these new programs? After all, I am the Treasurer. I am the person who is supposed to be talking about these initiatives."

We know the Treasurer had the overall policy opportunity to do that during his budget. One of the most important announcements he made, far outdistancing any of the 10-point youth employment individual announcements, was the employment of Ken Dryden himself.

As with the employment of Dr. Chant and certain other high quality people from the community in the past, the electorate was immediately entranced with the idea of Ken Dryden, a noted athlete, a lawyer, an excellent author and a person who is well respected everywhere, working with the Treasurer in fostering youth employment. Is the Treasurer going to silence Ken Dryden and put him out in a nice office at the end of a hot line with three or four secretaries telling the young people who phone in, "There will be an announcement soon"?

If he is going to hang poor Ken Dryden out to dry, I think Ken Dryden is soon going to become disillusioned. To some extent, he may be disillusioned with politicians on all sides, maybe even on this side, because we have perhaps expressed more than the usual amount of suspicion that this program is largely hokum. It is largely the Treasurer's announcements. The figures do not indicate they are going to be productive, and we are looking for increasing difficulty in youth employment.

In fact, in his opening announcement the Treasurer indicated he felt the federal authorities would be more amenable to certain decisions that would foster the economic programs of this province. It seems to me that if he has such a direct pipeline to policy at the federal level, he might have persuaded his colleagues not to cancel the first chance program, which was already funded and established at the federal level. It looks to me as if the federal people, having won their election, have forgotten about youth employment and that it is left to the provincial Tories, and perhaps to the Tories in Nova Scotia, to talk about youth employment since they are coming up to an election.

It seems to me to be a pitiful approach to politics and to public affairs that it should be left simply as a political issue, rather than being seen as the sort of important issue that could well be left in the Treasurer's file, giving it the importance and immediacy I believe this issue deserves. It does not deserve to become simply a political football where the Treasurer insists on making all the announcements and basking in what reflected glory Ken Dryden can bring to the rather shady Treasury benches, at a time when they are trying to prepare themselves for an election under difficult circumstances.

There are two or three matters I want to refer to specifically that the Treasurer by his policy statement could, whether he imposes it as government policy or simply indicates that as Treasurer he believes in it, do as a service to Ontario and, incidentally, I believe as a service to his own future.

The first I would mention is an area of some, I would say, concern on all sides. One might refer to it as the practice that has been deeply established now in Ontario of double-dipping—we might as well call it that because everybody knows what it is. These are the people who have graduated from sometimes long or sometimes intermediate service in the Legislature of Ontario, which has a reasonably good pension plan, and gone on to service at another level in Ontario.

They take their full pension allotment, which is very generous in most instances, and take their pay, which once again is generous. If I were going to list the figures and the names the Treasurer knows there are important people in all parties who would fall on that list. In my view, it is time that we as members of the Legislature assess where this is leading us.

The taxpayers should not have to pay the heavy level of salaries that goes with continuing service to the province as well as the pensions

that have been earned. I do not believe double-dipping should be permitted at this time or any other time at any level of government. It would electrify this province if someone on the Treasury benches would say he agrees with this concept.

We are not thinking of going back and slashing away at those who are already partaking of this policy of the government, but we can say that from here on in anybody who works for the government does not get a pension until he ceases his work subject to direct payment. I do not know of any other business or operation that permits this, and we are not in any way talking about the inadequacies of the individuals involved. That is by no means a factor.

More and more it seems to me that whenever the press gallery wants to criticize us, one of the first things it turns to is this practice. It simply cannot be defended except on the basis that five, 10 or 15 years from now we as individuals may be in a position to be on the take ourselves. That is what I am talking about when I say it is time for us to toughen up the edges of our monetary and budgetary policy and do something constructive about it.

The second thing associated with this matter has to do with our election expenses legislation. The minister and his colleagues are clearly aware that I am referring to the practice of constituency associations gathering in very large balances in their election campaign funds. This is quite legal, but every one of those dollars is on the average subsidized to the extent of 75 cents by the electorate itself. In the case of the Minister of Agriculture and Food, who we are told has \$235,318.60 in his constituency fund, the taxpayers have put in approximately \$180,000 themselves, according to my calculations.

We can go down the list. In the case of the Treasurer, the taxpayers have subsidized the \$61,204.93 in his campaign fund to the extent of approximately \$45,000. The Minister of Education and Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) is at just about \$100,000, the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) at close to \$50,000, the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) at about \$25,000, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) at about \$14,900 and the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) at about \$10,300.

We have to congratulate them for being so successful, but I remember reading that in the 1981 election campaign the Treasurer had to change the broadloom in his electoral offices twice to keep some of the extra money out of the

way. I am quite surprised he is going into the leadership campaign with a paltry \$61,000. I know these people, being influential ministers, simply have to half-close one eye and crook one finger and the money comes firehosing out of all the business establishments that in the past have done business with the government and in the future hope to do business with the government. We have to beware of this.

The members will remember the situation in 1974 and 1975 when it became apparent the government of Ontario was running a tollgate and the fund-raisers at the time, with the knowledge if not the consent of the Premier, were allowing huge amounts of money to go into the coffers of the Conservative Party. The business deals predicated on those contributions were there for all to see, and the buildings lie at almost every point of the compass that one would care to see as one stands on the steps of Queen's Park itself.

8:40 p.m.

Realizing he had to do something about this, the Premier decided he would bring in the election expenses legislation, which was very good legislation indeed, but now that it is almost 10 years old, we can see one of the major flaws in this legislation is that it permits huge balances to build up, particularly in the bank accounts of senior government ministers. It is quite clear those balances exist for one purpose only; that is, to fund leadership campaigns.

I personally believe wholeheartedly in the generous tax concessions—

Interjections.

The Acting Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: As a matter of fact, I should have had the specific amount that is in the account of the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow), who is just entering the House, because those huge funds are not necessarily accruing only to those members who may be candidates for the leadership. They also accrue to those who lie back in the weeds and direct their largess and generosity in certain directions.

One has heard of these people who go to Woodbine racetrack and bet on all the horses. The Minister of Transportation and Communications has the resources, in more ways than one, to back all the horses; so he cannot possibly lose. I admire his generosity. When he opens up his premises at the end of the James Snow Parkway to the road contractors and pavers, not only of Ontario but of blooming North America, and

asks them to come and have a steak with him and a little red wine—

Hon. Mr. Snow: White wine is best.

Mr. Nixon: I was just telling you, Mr. Speaker, that the funds that go in there are heavily subsidized by the taxpayers. For every dollar that falls into the pocket of the minister's constituency association treasurer the taxpayers pay 75 cents. The minister could be elected if he spent \$1,200, unless we bring back Robin Skuce to oppose him, and we are thinking of doing that.

Here is an opportunity for the Treasurer, who is a principal candidate for the leadership of the Progressive Conservative Party, to actually do what the Tory traditions say they do; that is, when they change leaders they renew their commitment to good public administration. Unless there is a change in this approach, it will be clear that the Treasurer and his colleagues who are contesting the leadership have lost that hard edge of public service and that the taxpayers are going to know about it and will have to pay the penalty in a broader, larger and more important forum.

He asked for advice and I am giving him the kind of advice that an individual who intends to become Premier of this province should take and consider very carefully. If he continues to stroke his colleagues and say, "What you are doing is okay; some of the people in the press gallery complain about it, but the public do not care," he will be wrong and his colleagues will be wrong.

Hon. Mr. Snow: What about Robin Skuce?

Mr. Nixon: We will show the minister when we resurrect him.

I know that others want to take part in this debate, but the Treasurer has specifically asked for advice. I want to close by expressing my concern, once again, that the Treasurer has not shown the sort of leadership that the Attorney General, for example, was talking about the other day.

The Treasurer has allowed the government of Canada, which was created, made and elected by the Big Blue Machine with its home here in Ontario, to follow on the old Liberal initiative of adding another per cent to the sales tax federally, with all the ramifications that has for Ontario.

It is easy for him to sit back and allow his friends in Ottawa not to keep their firm promise to reject that one per cent, because it is so easy for him to do. What makes it particularly easy is the manna in additional funds that falls into the Ministry of Revenue as a direct result of that. We have already seen that the beer stores and the liquor stores have to be closed for half a day to

change the prices upward to take account of the additional revenue we are going to get.

The Treasurer made a commitment to the tobacco farmers—and I know I am a voice crying in the wilderness in this regard—that he would not increase the taxes on cigarettes. Yet we know that he still has tax on tax on tax and that the additional excise tax in Ottawa results in additional tax at the provincial level as well. Instead of taking a firm stand when his new colleagues in Ottawa just sloughed it off and said, “It is a small tax indeed and will have no ramifications of any significance,” he sat back and did not do anything about it.

The suggestion came from the leader of the New Democratic Party, and I think it is a good one, that we in Ontario in response to the federal lack of leadership in this regard should at least have improved our sales tax rebates to take into account this extra money that has come without any action on our part simply because the federal government has increased the sales tax and with the ad valorem there are changes that automatically occur here.

There is one other matter of somewhat lesser importance that I want to mention. The Treasurer indicated that he was asking for two months only, pending the voting of supply, the implication being that when supply is voted the day before or the day after Christmas or New Year’s, no further interim supply will be required.

I happen to agree with him; but I ask that he consult with his legal experts, who have been confusing this House for a good long time by indicating that even though supply is voted to the end of the fiscal year, they still like to have a motion for interim supply so that in case the amounts are variable during the time when the House is not in session, they will feel freer to raise the amounts expended for certain programs that were unforeseen.

I personally believe that once interim supply is voted, the usual flexibilities extend during the remaining three months of the fiscal year and we should not be put to the inconvenience of voting interim supply for the first three months of the next calendar year.

I bring this to the attention of the Treasurer since the House leaders, at our meetings when we are scheduling our work, have had a continuing discussion, not an argument, in this regard. I think we all agree that interim supply should not be required.

In closing, I simply want to say to the Treasurer that he has asked for advice and he will get it. This is not a thorough review of the

budget—I am not prepared for that; far from it. These are three or four things that would be tough to do but that, I say to him very seriously, he should consider doing.

We have not had that kind of leadership for more than a decade. We have had the other kind of leadership, which tends to round off the corners and which tends to telegraph to the members of the Legislature on all sides that we are not very careful about some of those matters and that what becomes a practice in a few individual cases becomes the norm within a year or two.

My own feeling, compared with when I was budget critic to some of the minister’s predecessors, who are still our good friends and appear in the gallery on budget night, is that it is time for a very tough, independent and dedicated Treasurer; a person who, in the grand traditions of British parliamentary practice, holds himself somewhat independent, just as the Attorney General must hold himself independent, from his colleagues in the cabinet; a person who is at least one of the foundation stones upon which his colleagues and the government can build and who does not exhibit the kinds of flexibility in these policies that lead to the sort of House built upon shifting sands that cannot stand.

8:50 p.m.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I guess this will probably be the last time this Treasurer will be coming forward with a motion for interim supply.

Mr. Bradley: Is he retiring?

Mr. McClellan: One way or the other.

Mr. Foulds: First of all, let me say that we are going to vote for the interim supply motion. We certainly want to see the province run smoothly while the retirement and the fall of a dynasty take place over the next few months and perhaps years.

When we come back in December and vote the no-confidence motions that both the opposition parties have put on the budget, I am convinced it will be the last time we will see the Treasurer in his place as Treasurer. He will either be the Premier when we reconvene in the spring or he will have taken other opportunities in the private sector should he not get the golden ring.

Let me just say that whichever choice he decides to make, I personally and my colleagues wish him well.

An hon. member: A gold ring or a gold watch?

Mr. Foulds: A brass ring, is it not?

As this will probably be the last time we do an interim supply debate with this minister in this portfolio, let me just say at this point that it may be worth while to review the budget. I would like to do so in respect of one topic only; that is the topic of youth unemployment.

It was interesting that the headlines after the budget included the minister's 10-point program to tackle the problem of youth unemployment. It was interesting today that the minister himself was not quite sure whether there were 10 or 11 points in his youth employment program. It does not really matter. There are only six or seven substantive points in his program, and if we count the 10-point program, the one job creation program was the hiring of Mr. Dryden.

I think it is safe to say that with half a year gone after the budget, whether one looks at it for short-term job creation, for long-term job creation or in terms of actually hustling and trying to restructure the economy, genuinely attacking the problem of youth unemployment, this Treasurer and this budget have been a total and complete failure.

The fact of the matter is very simple. Ontario is failing its young men and women, 40 per cent of whom do not finish high school. Many of them are ill prepared for work, many are ill prepared for future and further technical education and most of them are unprepared for the cycle of unemployment and income support that awaits hundreds of thousands of them.

The response of governments at all levels—this government and the federal government, both Liberal and Conservative—has been chaotic. Special program after special program has been announced; some have even been created. Each has its own entrance qualifications, each seems to be focused on a particular narrow part of the problem and none has solved the problem.

On any scale the costs of youth unemployment are staggering. Moreover, it is abundantly clear that the present response, both of this ministry and of the federal department, is totally inadequate. Tinkering reforms, nickel-and-dime initiatives, make-work schemes, cheap gestures such as hotlines and short-term jobs in institutions simply will not be any kind of substantive or long-term answer.

As long as we fail to recognize that the unemployment and skills training problems of our young people are systemic and part of the present economic situation, we will continue to arrange and rearrange the chairs on the deck of the Titanic, which is what the Treasurer is doing.

Maybe we should pause to take a look and remember that economics as a discipline started out as a branch of moral theology. Maybe we should stop to think what the job of economics should be and therefore what the job of a Treasurer of a government should be.

The job of a Treasurer of a government should be to make sure the economy of a province serves the needs of the people of the province. He should not look at it simply as an accountant; he should not look at job creation programs simply as programs to switch numbers around and make them look better.

The job of a Treasurer is a most serious and heavy responsibility. The job of a Treasurer is to try to create in his jurisdiction the kind of economy that will serve the needs of its people.

In this case and in the case of our young people today this Treasurer and this government have totally failed. There are 156,000 young men and women unemployed in this province. Many of them have been unemployed for periods in excess of six months. In addition, the number of full-time jobs for young people has fallen by almost 9,000 over the past year or so.

More than 20 per cent of the population over 15 years of age in this province is functionally illiterate. What this means is that one out of every five Canadians—and I assume the statistics in Ontario are the same; one out of every five Ontario adults—is unable to fill out forms, write letters or even absorb the academic portion of most occupational training courses.

At the same time as 156,000 of our young people cannot find work in this province today, many thousands of our province's older workers are eager to retire and would be interested in retiring if they could be assured of a decent and adequate income. But because of the inflexibility in the way we order our working time and our working life and because of the inadequate and totally irrational pension and retirement provisions in this province, most of them cannot afford to take voluntary early retirement.

Any way you want to look at it, youth unemployment remains a serious problem in this province. In June the minister clearly stated that by September 1, 1984, there would be 100,000 new jobs for young people in this province. Today in this House he gets up and makes a statement at the beginning of this debate that the total number of new jobs in this province over the last year for young, middle-aged and elderly people is 42,000.

9 p.m.

The Treasurer has failed to meet his own specific, stated target. In June there were 1,013,000 young people working; in September there were only 891,000 young people working. Sure, a lot of young people went back to school. But the fact of the matter is that there were 122,000 fewer jobs for young people in Ontario in September than there had been in June, and there were 156,000 people looking for jobs.

Even if we want to use the statistical basis, the unemployment rate for youth in September is worse than the unemployment rate for youth in June. What has happened is that over the summer months we may have had a small and temporary blip, but when we get the comparison between June and September, which are fairly stable months, we have a much worse situation for youth employment in this province than we had in June.

I suggest it is the responsibility of the Treasurer. It is his duty, before he finally decides to throw his hat in the ring to run for the premiership, to finish his job as Treasurer and to bring forward a fall budget that would do something substantial to create both short-term and long-term jobs for our young people and for our older workers.

There has to be, in my view, a fundamental look at the social problems associated with youth unemployment. As to the very basic thing that is wrong, I want to quote from a speech given by Bishop J. A. O'Mara, the bishop of Thunder Bay, to the Salvation Army on April 26, 1984.

"Our society considers capital as the dominant principle of economic life. This orientation directly contradicts the ethical principle that labour, not capital, must be given priority in the development of an economy based on justice.

"Recently, my barber said to me, 'Bishop, we are making Indians out of our young people.' I knew what he meant even though I would not have said it that way. His point was that here in northwestern Ontario we see the results of government policy towards the native people. Having taken away their traditional means of livelihood when hydro dams raised the water levels and roads and timber harvesting drove away the animals, they were put on welfare and now, 20 years later, many of them have lost their purpose in life and their sense of accomplishment and the sense of responsibility that goes with it. In alarming numbers, they have become alcoholics, and violence and suicide and other forms of antisocial behaviour have become rampant in their communities and in our white communities too.

"Now our society is doing this to our youth. How long can a young man or a young woman look for work and not find any? Can they accept a refusal 10 times or 20 times? For a month, for a year or for several years? Dare we say to them, either the native people or our youth, that we can organize a truly human society without a need for their talents? It is my contention that it is not good enough to tell them to stay in school, to take another course or degree, or to say that they should not worry because the welfare net will look after them.

"Which of you would be foolish enough to say to your son or daughter, 'Do not worry about not working or accepting responsibility; I will look after you,' and then at the age of 25 or 30 or 35 expect them to be mature, responsible individuals? We grow and mature through the work that we do, through the challenges we meet, through the responsibilities we accept. Work puts order into our lives and gives us a sense of accomplishment too. Work, in some form or other, is necessary for human survival."

I believe very profoundly that we forge our identity as human beings, we forge our sense of worth, we forge our sense of what we consider to be our responsibilities to society and society's responsibility to us through the work that we do. When we have 156,000 young people in this province desperately searching for work, that is a total and abject failure on the part of this Treasurer and this government.

The budget was announced in May. The Speaker will remember better than most just how late that budget was, after many of us in the opposition pleaded for months that it be moved up so that we could get a decent start on the economy.

I actually went through, and have before me, the press releases issued by the Treasurer and his ministry after the budget with regard to the youth employment program. There was the announcement on May 15, which was the date of the budget, that outlined all of the wonderful works of the youth employment program. Two days later, on May 17, the Treasurer announced that Ken Dryden, author, lawyer and member of the Hockey Hall of Fame, had been appointed youth commissioner for Ontario.

On July 25, the ministry announced that the first stage of the new youth works program would create 3,000 jobs. The next statement on August 22, a month later, was that the new Ontario youth corps program would create 4,000 jobs. The next statement on September 24—these are a month apart—was that the new youth program will create

jobs in the tourist industry. No numbers were specified. Finally, on October 4, we had the announcement of the Ontario youth corps, stage two, to create 3,100 more jobs.

That totals, at best, 10,000 sure jobs, and an unspecified number in the tourist industry that have not even been created. Ten thousand jobs have been announced. That is a far cry from the minister's claim that there would be 100,000 jobs for youth created by September.

The timing of the announcements, the shape of the announcements and the substance of the announcements is so transparently shallow and thin that I suspect it has more to do with the timing of electoral success or political success than it has to do with tackling the deep-seated, tough problem of youth unemployment in this province.

If there is going to be a genuine attack on youth unemployment in this province, we have to have a government with some vision, a government with some courage and a government with some sense of the overall direction it wants the economy to take. It cannot do it through press releases. It cannot do it through one person as a youth commissioner, laudatory and heroic and a man of integrity though that youth commissioner may be.

We need a government that has the courage to make a three-pronged attack on youth unemployment. Number one, we have to have a government that has the courage to genuinely look at work sharing, shorter work time over the entire lifetime of the working members of our society and a voluntary early retirement, with the topping up of pensions so that becomes a reality. It is only through opening up jobs that currently exist that we will actually create what people call a lifetime job for our young people.

Number two, I believe the government must tackle the problem of import replacement. That is, we must create jobs in our economy in those industries for which we have a market in Ontario and Canada and for which we import supplies from outside the country. Let me give some quick examples.

9:10 p.m.

One is mining machinery. As the whole world knows, we are the third largest mining country in the world and we are the largest importer of mining machinery in the world. We could create 20,000 permanent, full-time, year-round jobs over the next 10 to 12 years in that industry alone, should we want to do so, by replacing the machinery as it wears out in the mining industry with machinery made in Canada.

We could do the same thing in the forestry industry and in the processing of our agricultural products. It is a scandal that so much of our processing does not take place in this country. We could also do it in medical supplies. I offer only four examples, but it is only by tackling those economic problems that we will actually create real jobs for the youth of this province.

Finally, the third suggestion I want to make to the Treasurer is that we must create specific youth programs, both short term and long term. We must do some of the things the Treasurer announced in his budget. We must do them, not merely announce them. Setting up counselling services and training programs across the province is no damned good at all if there are no jobs for those people to go to. I believe that is the greatest single failure of this Treasurer in this budget and I believe it will be the greatest single failure of this government as viewed by historians in the future.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I suppose it is standard procedure to vote in favour of interim supply so that the wheels of Ontario can continue to turn but, believe me, there are at least 350 reasons for not voting in favour of this resolution. I want to spend a little time talking about some of these reasons.

Much was said during the recent federal election campaign, by both the news media and the Conservative candidates, about the issue of political patronage. Let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that the powerful patronage network of the Premier has firmly entrenched Tories in scores of key positions that control and influence the everyday lives of Ontario residents and cost the taxpayers of this province millions upon millions of dollars. We are actually voting here on a supply motion that will continue to pay these people who are what I call double-dipping in the public trough.

A study by one of my assistants has documented at least 350 patronage appointments, people who have been handed important posts in major decision-making bodies that regulate everything from liquor, to energy prices, to the arts. It might interest members to know that studies were also done by the Windsor Star, the Hamilton Spectator and the Ottawa Citizen and they documented 251 patronage appointments. One does not have to take the word of my assistant. One can be sure the three daily papers I referred to have not written something they cannot back up.

The 350 documented names we have on file include key Conservatives, such as former

cabinet ministers and members of the provincial Parliament, defeated Tory candidates, party workers and, in some cases, their family members. Some of the biggest beneficiaries of Conservative pork-barrelling have been 75 former Tory MPPs and defeated Progressive Conservative candidates, nearly one third of the 256 men and women who carried the banner of the Premier into four elections. More than half of these appointments, 41 of 75, had been made in the three years since the Premier regained a majority in 1981.

For some, the patronage plum can be a double bonanza. For example, former cabinet minister Allan Grossman receives about \$66,463 as chairman of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board and a further \$37,000 from his legislative pension. In other words, the Treasurer writes his daddy a cheque for more than \$100,000 a year.

Among Tories now holding key positions is Lincoln Alexander, a former Hamilton area Tory MP, who earns \$60,000 a year as chairman of the Workers' Compensation Board. He also receives an undisclosed indexed parliamentary pension. Gordon Aiken, former Parry Sound Tory MP, earns \$57,000 as chairman of the Commission on Election Contributions and Expenses. He is also eligible for a federal pension.

Willis Blair, former PC riding president in the federal riding of Broadview-Greenwood, earns \$61,000 as chairman of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario. Bradford Bowlby, a one-time federal Tory organizer, earns \$55,000 as chairman of the Assessment Review Court. Ross DeGeer, former executive director of the Ontario PC Party, earns \$90,000 as Agent General at Ontario House in London, England.

Robert Macaulay, former Ontario Tory cabinet minister, earns about \$75,000 as chairman of the Ontario Energy Board and a further \$14,000 from his legislative pension. Bill McAleer, who is active in both federal and provincial Tory election campaigns, earns a \$125 per diem as chairman of Ontario Place.

Robert McDonald, former Hamilton area Tory MP, earns \$71,000 as Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services. John White, former Ontario Treasurer—

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: My deputy minister's name is Robert McDonald. My deputy minister, previous to being a deputy minister, was an assistant deputy minister in the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. He was a federal MP for a number of years.

When he was defeated, he went to work in the private sector. Some years later, he won a competition for a civil service position in this government. I would ask the honourable member to withdraw the remarks about my deputy minister owing his position to patronage.

Mr. Riddell: The minister has his opinion about it, and I have my opinion.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I must insist.

An hon. member: The minister cannot insist.

Mr. Riddell: Oh, don't give me the gears.

John White, former Ontario Treasurer, earns \$120 per diem as chairman of the Ontario Heritage Foundation and also receives a legislative pension of \$30,130.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I have drawn the member's attention to a statement of fact. I would ask that he withdraw the allegations he has made concerning the good name and the professional reputation of a prominent civil servant, to wit, my deputy minister, who won his first position in this government in a competition, and subsequently advanced in the public service on the basis of his merit.

9:20 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, if the Minister of Community and Social Services or any other minister says I have to come to this Legislature and agree with their points of view or their opinions, they are facing the wrong person. I do not have to agree with this minister or any other minister. I am simply stating facts. I am simply stating that the man was a former Tory MP and that he is now making \$71,000 as the Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services. Now that is fact.

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member is confining his remarks about Mr. McDonald to the fact that he is the Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services and what his salary is, which is a matter of public record, then I will accept that. But I think the honourable member, when he reviews what he read or what he said before, will no doubt want to expunge the remarks or connotations about Mr. McDonald from his statement, and I would appreciate it if he did so.

Mr. Riddell: If the minister is saying that the fact that he was a prominent Tory MP has nothing to do with his position as the Deputy Minister of Community and Social Services, then that, of course, is his opinion and he is entitled to it. But what I have said is certainly not contrary to any parliamentary procedure in this House.

Let me continue. John Yaremko, former Ontario Solicitor General, earns \$60,000 as chairman of the Commercial Registration Appeal Tribunal and the Liquor Licence Appeal Tribunal and also gets a \$35,000 pension. Walter Borosa, former executive assistant to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), earns \$48,325 as chief of protocol for the province. Terry Yates, former chief fund-raiser for Joe Clark, earns \$25,000 as chairman of the Ontario Racing Commission.

Gerald Nori, former president of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, earns a yearly honorarium of \$2,500, a \$175 per diem and money for travel and out-of-pocket expenses as a director of the Ontario Energy Corp. Omer Déslauriers, who was defeated in Ottawa East in 1981, earns \$88,684 in salaries and perks as Ontario's agent general in Brussels.

Ward Cornell worked on the Premier's leadership campaign in 1971 and earns \$71,845 as Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing. John MacBeth, a former Solicitor General, earns more than \$60,000 as vice-chairman of the Ontario Police Commission in addition to his \$15,400 pension. Edward Goodman, a key adviser to the Premier, holds the prestigious but nonpaying chairmanship of the Royal Ontario Museum. Gordon Thomson, a defeated Tory candidate in Windsor-Riverside, earns \$60,100 as a member of the Ontario Municipal Board.

Relatives of people well connected to Tories have also received appointments. Louis Alexopoulos makes \$125 each day he serves as an Ontario human rights commissioner; his wife Tula is the Premier's special assistant on policy matters. Donald Misener was appointed the sheriff and local registrar of the Ontario Supreme Court in Perth county in 1982; his wife Colleen was the unsuccessful Tory candidate in Perth a year earlier.

Let me get a little closer to home. My predecessor, with all due respect to Charles MacNaughton, was appointed upon retiring from this place as chairman of the Ontario Racing Commission at \$25,000 per year. He has since retired, but during that period of time and now he receives a monthly pension of \$1,845.10.

Elmer Bell spoke at the Tory nomination in my riding. He got up and said how important it was to have a member on the government side, that we in Huron-Middlesex are tired of being the caboose. There was nobody more on the gravy train than Elmer Bell. Elmer Bell, a former PC organizer, was appointed chairman of the Ontario Police Commission at \$55,000, and he

has since retired and gone back to his law practice in Exeter.

William Stewart is a chap who works very hard against me every election. I understand he even appointed the candidate who is to come against me in the next election. He works very hard for those people, but he is a former Progressive Conservative member and he has been appointed to the board of directors of Ontario Hydro at dear knows what price, and he is chancellor of the University of Guelph, God bless him, and receives a pension of \$2,802.56 every month.

There is Jim Britnell, the guy who ran against me in the last election. It is my understanding that Jim Britnell was promised he would get a Tory position if he happened to be defeated in the election. He got the appointment all right. He was appointed a member of the Environmental Assessment Board where he receives \$175 per day plus expenses.

The members should listen to this and see if this is not a blatant abuse of taxpayers' money and political patronage to the nth degree.

Clare Westcott from Seaforth, a little town in my riding, a Progressive Conservative fund-raiser, executive assistant to the Premier at \$76,000, was appointed to the Great Lakes-Seaway Task Force and the Canadian National Exhibition stadium board. He is expected to receive an appointment to the Ontario Police Commission now that the Premier is gone. That is Clare Westcott.

Clare has five children who have all been appointed to government jobs. There is Chris Westcott, son of Clare, appointed a special assistant to the deputy minister. There is Diane Westcott, daughter of Clare, given a job with the Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. There is Jan Westcott, son of Clare, appointed manager of special events, Ministry of Citizenship and Culture. There is John Westcott, son of Clare, appointed assistant to the chairman of the Liquor Licence Board of Ontario. There is Carol Westcott, daughter-in-law of Clare, given a job as special assistant in the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

It would appear to me that if any youth in this province wants a job, all he has to do is declare he is a relative of Clare Westcott. Maybe that is the answer to youth unemployment in this province.

It annoys me no end to think this government can get away with all the political appointments in the world; yet the Tories were the ones who stood up during the last federal election—Brian Mulroney commented on the 17 Liberal patron-

age appointments: "I say enough is enough. It is time for a change, time for new ways and a new Progressive Conservative government will bring precisely that."

Obviously, Brian Mulroney does not know what goes on in these precincts. If the people of Ontario knew how their money was being spent there would be nothing short of a revolution in this province, I am sure of it. The blatant political appointments that have been made by this government are absolutely nauseating.

The Treasurer wanted some advice. I am going to give him some advice. For years I have expressed the view that all governments, regardless of their political composition, should take a new approach to the appointment process by choosing the most competent and qualified individuals to fill positions, rather than simply rewarding political friends.

This is not to suggest that supporters of a government in office should be excluded from serving in appointed positions or should be denied the opportunity to do business with the government. It is clear, however, that fairness, good judgement and common sense should prevail when individuals are appointed to government agencies, boards or commissions, particularly in view of the fact that Ontario taxpayers are paying the salaries or honorariums of such individuals.

9:30 p.m.

I recommend that positions now filled through the political patronage system be subject to an invitation to the public to apply, and that those who are independent of the partisan political process be asked to review such applications and make recommendations to the government.

A committee of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario should, in my view, be empowered to review, comment upon and render judgement on all major appointments such as the Ombudsman, the chairman of Ontario Hydro and other important and highly paid positions. Since all taxpayers in Ontario pay the bills for such appointed positions and for business conducted by the provincial government, a sense of fair play would dictate that all taxpayers, regardless of their political involvement or affiliation, should be eligible to apply and to receive serious consideration based on merit, ability and competence.

When we form the government after the next election, we will do exactly that and political patronage will be right out the window.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other honourable member wish to participate? If not, the minister.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, we have debated the kinds of issues that have been raised here many times in the assembly. It is appropriate tonight that we reflect on some of the information on how we are doing to date. I will not deny for a moment to the new Treasury critic of the Liberal Party that we are taking the opportunity, as we often do, to explain some of the brighter sides of our economic recovery.

It is a matter of concern to me that on my visits to the business community in the United States, New York in particular, predictions such as those of the Conference Board of Canada are always raised when I am there. Without debating the accuracy of my statistics and my predictions against those of the opposition or those of the Conference Board, I know the members opposite will share with me some measure of concern about potential investors, people assessing the strength of our economy, tending always to look at the predictions of the most pessimistic economic forecasters in the country.

On my last visit to New York, when I was speaking with some of the business communities there, we discussed this and they mentioned something very interesting to me. They said they have noticed a new phenomenon in Canada, that is, that economic forecasts in the last three or four years in Canada have received extraordinary coverage and attention through the media and by the public. Consequently, they are also read and talked about in the United States. They were commenting to me on how different this is from the American circumstance.

One of them said to me—and I am talking about the most influential investment people in the United States—that the equivalent prediction or forecast from an equivalent agency south of the border would make page 3 of the financial section in the New York Times, whereas when the Conference Board, in particular, makes predictions in Canada, they are front page news and the lead story on most of the radio broadcasts.

Mr. Wildman: The minister has to counteract them. Is that it?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) has suggested we have to counteract them and that is exactly right. There must be a balance to that. I might also say that when we do counteract them by giving out our fairly objective forecast, and time and analysis will indicate that it tends to be a pretty accurate forecast the Treasury puts out—

Mr. McClellan: Until recently, yes.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No, it has been fairly accurate. It is important that we take this opportunity, and I hope members opposite do—and I suspect they do when they are outside of a partisan format such as this—to say honestly, for example, to potential investors in their own constituencies and communities that the situation in Canada is not anywhere near as bleak as the Conference Board predicts.

The Conference Board, indeed, predicted a recession for this past summer. They are now suggesting the recession they predicted for last summer may occur next year. That prediction is based upon their assumption that interest rates are going to go up to the 16 per cent range and stay there for all of next year. We do not believe that and, to be fair, few forecasters do.

I want to say to the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) that in discussing whether we are talking too optimistically, I think it is important to keep in mind the need to put some perspective and some balance against some of the overly pessimistic forecasts that are out there, particularly those of the Conference Board of Canada.

Second, although it is the obligation of the member to criticize and suggest more ought to have been done, I would point out that in our budget, in terms of a clear analysis of our projections, the economy has clearly outperformed even our projections.

Obviously, I was here the day of the budget, the day after and the ensuing weeks when the main thrust across the floor was to say I was overly optimistic and that there was no way the Treasury forecast of 4.7 per cent for Ontario would be reached. We know now it is not just going to be reached, but it is going to be exceeded. We can debate here for some time with regard to how it happened, why it happened and who should take credit for it.

We are not here this evening to argue in a partisan sense who should take all or most of the credit. We will have another opportunity to do this, but in terms of how we performed over time, the kind of economy that has been built here, the constancy and resiliency of government economic policy, surely it is not simply an accident that Ontario has recovered so quickly and is currently leading the rest of Canada.

This is far from suggesting the job is done. Our unemployment is still far too high. Youth unemployment remains a serious problem. I want to discuss this for a moment. Again, we will have lots of opportunities to discuss the youth unemployment issue. To put the numbers in

some perspective, and there have been some liberties taken with the statistics in the House the last few days, the fact is the labour force goes up every summer. It goes up significantly.

From May to August this year in Ontario it went up almost 200,000. In that same period of time the unemployment rate went down. This indicates more and more people were being employed. This indicates the jobs we predicted came. Some of them were not needed when the young people returned to school in the fall.

I must admit I sometimes think it is only an exercise in debating to try to figure out which set of comparative statistics give a good view on how well we are doing. In order to fairly balance the record, I should like to point out to my friends opposite that youth employment fell in September on an unadjusted basis, which is the way they are measured, as it always does. Obviously, this is for the simple reason that students leave their summer jobs and return to school.

Therefore, if one wants to take the year-over-year figures when young people have returned to school in both years—a fair analysis, I would suggest—one would find that from September 1983 to September 1984 youth employment was some 13,000 higher than in the previous year.

Youth employment was substantially higher this summer compared to last summer—again the relevant kind of comparison. There were some 41,000 more young people at work in August 1984 than in August 1983.

I must repeat this every time we discuss this issue. I think it is important to remember that youth employment programs have been tried in every jurisdiction in the world. Ontario's youth unemployment rate is relatively low compared with most industrialized jurisdictions. It is still too high to make any of us comfortable. If any jurisdiction had a simple solution to youth unemployment, then obviously it would have adopted it and we would have adopted it too. The simple answers are not there.

9:40 p.m.

What is there, though, are some longer-term programs to try to get to the heart of the youth employment problem. As I have mentioned before, the heart of it is the fact that 20 per cent of our young people comprise 50 per cent of all of our youth unemployment.

What we have done is to focus our programs for those employment-disadvantaged young people. If the members would just contemplate that circumstance for a moment, they will realize that by "employment-disadvantaged" we are talking about young people whose

families do not have a history of work, who come out of environments that are not conducive to work, who generally speaking have little or no education and who do not have job opportunities available to them. They have not learned work habits.

When we are dealing with that kind of program and with those kinds of young people, the core of the youth unemployment problem, we are not going to change those young people overnight. A summer employment program is not going to help cure that disease in the long term. A series of programs has to be implemented and has to mature before the young people who most need that education, training and opportunity find themselves able to take a job that we can offer them through our youth employment counselling centres and other programs.

I make no apologies and am proud that our youth employment programs will have long-term impact, not short-term impact. I feel it would have been cheating our young people to take the \$160 million and spend it simply to recycle more advantaged young people through short-term job creation programs. These might have allowed me to stand here this evening, but not next year, and say the unemployment rate is a little bit lower. That would have been misleading and unfair. What we are doing is tackling the heart of the problem.

I fully intend to keep to that strategy. That is the only way to tackle this problem in the longer term, else I and my successors will simply be standing here with a yearly renewal of a three-week, three-month or whatever it is youth employment program, which will really be fence painting or filing papers in a government office.

Mr. Wildman: Stand tall, Larry.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: We all do on this side. I met the honourable member's opponent. He stands pretty tall, so the member had better be careful.

I have noted the contributions made once again by my critics opposite and would like to refer to one other point. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk said the federal government had implemented the Liberal scheduled tax increases on October 1, and he was taking exception to the fact this government had not opposed those vigorously.

As one learns when one deals with budgets—and I know he has for some time; indeed longer than I have—budgets are comprised of the spending and the tax side, the spending and the revenue side.

With respect, to look at the federal tax increases absent from the spending increases that caused the federal government to determine that those tax increases were necessary to feed the spending and deficit plans of the previous government is unfair. They are obviously directly connected. The point we were raising last February and last March was not to pick one item out of the federal budget and say this tax or that tax was a mistake and should not be implemented. We were saying Mr. Lalonde and his colleagues had left themselves—my very words, I think—with little manoeuvrability, little flexibility because of what they had done previously. They had no option in terms of the taxes they had to introduce last year and the year before.

I do not agree with them. More fundamentally, I do not agree with the careless, flagrant spending excesses that caused both the huge deficits at the federal level and the tax increases necessary to keep it from the brink of bankruptcy. That is the reason those tax increases cannot be dealt with in isolation from the other steps taken by that government, a late but not lamented government in terms of the things it did that caused both the deficits and the tax increases that the new government felt had to be maintained.

That concludes my remarks except to say to the now departed member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) that I understand his frustration, having promised for many elections now to achieve government benches and having been frustrated every time.

I think there are points to be made in terms of the general principles espoused by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk. I do not happen to share those views. We must remember those people did not get bonuses and did not get gifts. What they got were pensions they had earned.

Mr. Nixon: We are not talking about retroactivity; we are not bothering with these people.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Let me make the point. I did not interrupt the member.

These people earned pensions as if they were working for any private employer. They came to this government and paid out of their earnings into their own pensions funds. These are deferred earnings they put away for the day they left government, when they qualified under the retirement scheme and drew down the moneys they had paid in and invested so they could get a return on their investment and their employer's investment when they left employment under the voted-on and agreed-upon pension plan of this government.

Subsequently, they took employment in another area of public service. It is important, with respect to those at the federal level and provincial level, regardless of which party they belong to, whether we are talking about Stephen Lewis or Bryce Mackasey or any appointee of this government, to remember that portion of their earnings comes from their own investment in their future, pursuant to a previously agreed upon pension plan between employer and employee, both contributors to the pension plan.

It was earned. It was agreed upon, put away and invested and they are now getting the results of the earnings on their own deferred income. We cannot say to those people: "You paid in your income. You deferred your income. You did not take current dollars. When you retire and qualify, retire from that current employment with its risks and everything else, and then there comes an opportunity for you to get the pension you qualified for, paid in and earned, we will not let you have it if you continue to serve the public in any way whatsoever."

If we put in that policy, we punish people for wanting to continue to offer their expertise. Quite apart from the partisan dimensions and what the member would call the patronage dimensions—

Mr. Nixon: Partisan dimensions cut all ways.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: That is correct. It is a different issue, the issue of whether they should get their pensions versus whether they should get the appointment. We can debate that at any time.

The suggestion is that we should say to those with a great deal of expertise, a great deal of knowledge, many of whom I would say, and I am sure members opposite would agree, have served with distinction in their subsequent appointments, all of whom come from the three parties here and the three parties federally, "I am sorry you cannot have the pension you earned with your own dollars and the dollars of your employer, pursuant to your agreed upon plan, if you continue to offer your expertise to the people of this province or this country."

When one lists and reads and hears the names read out in a mean and demeaning way by the member for Huron-Middlesex, one may reflect on their political backgrounds, but if one takes a moment later and reads those names and reflects upon them, one will see there is a vast array of much-respected, much-admired expertise and knowledge being offered to the public by those people.

One could say there should be more members appointed from opposite parties. I understand

that position. The point I want to make, in fairness to the people read from that list tonight, is that they are well-respected people offering a great deal of knowledge and expertise, working hard and serving well. The people who either appear before them or work underneath them will all say, almost without exception—and I listened to the list—they are making fine and excellent contributions to the public of Ontario.

I want to conclude my remarks by pointing out to the member for Huron-Middlesex, who, unfortunately, is not here to listen—he does not listen, but he is not here anyway; I want to say a little bit about him and I wish he were here—he can talk as much as he wants about the partisan nature of some of those appointments and about patronage. He can even make the point, although he cannot make it as well as the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk can. I disagree and I have just explained why. That is a fair argument to have. We are entitled to disagree on it.

However, he demeans, with respect, every member, former member and appointee of this House when he indulges in nonsense and unnecessary cheap political junk, saying that the Treasurer of Ontario writes a cheque for \$100,000 to his father. I am proud of my father's record in this House. It is a record the member and almost no one in his party will ever have.

Everyone who has appeared before him in his subsequent work on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board will say without exception that he has been excellent in that service. The member, his leader and his Treasury critic know it. He has provided excellent and superb service to the people of this province in this assembly and at the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board.

One can complain about his salary and his pension, but one can do it with a little bit of class, distinction and fairness instead of sticking mud on everyone here and pretending that there is something wrong and distasteful about the fact that I happen to be fortunate enough to be Treasurer of this province, signing the cheques, and the fact that my father has been fortunate enough, good enough and has made plenty of sacrifices, so that he could sit in this chair for many years, and subsequently serve hard at age 73, giving all of his time and energy to continue to serve the public. I am proud of it and will not apologize.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Tuesday, October 16, 1984
Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 16, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

SOFTBALL TITLE

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, before you call for ministerial statements, I wonder if I might bring to your attention a paragraph in a recent St. Catharines Standard edition. It is as follows:

"Jim Bradley, MPP St. Catharines, a longtime coach, manager and league executive who also served as chairman for this year's Canadian Junior Men's Softball Championships, was named Mr. Softball by the St. Catharines Softball Association at the St. Catharines Intermediate Fastball League banquet Saturday night at the UAW centre."

Mr. Speaker, I know you would want to join with me and the member's colleagues in congratulating him on receiving the honour and designation Mr. Softball.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, needless to say, the House leader of the Liberal Party has changed that designation around a little bit from time to time in reminding me of winning it. But I do want to indicate that when it comes to the next election campaign, it will be hardball we will be playing.

NOTICE OF DISSATISFACTION

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding, I would like to point out to the House that, pursuant to standing order 28(a), I have been advised of the dissatisfaction with the response of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) to a question that was put by the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye), and we shall hear the debate at 10:30 this evening.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

CHILD WELFARE SERVICES IN NORTH

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, today I would like to give the House the details of my ministry's plans to bring effective child welfare and associated services to children and their families throughout northern Ontario.

Specifically, these plans have been made for northern Ontario and, more specifically, for the district of Kenora. This huge area stretches from the Manitoba border in the west to James Bay and

Quebec in the east and from just south of Kenora and Dryden to Hudson Bay in the north. We know it as a vast area, most of it reached only by boats and small aircraft, where there are many different languages—English, Cree, Ojibway and some French—and cultures. It is an area, I submit, that is impossible to administer effectively as a single unit, whether by governments or by agencies.

Before the new plans could be put into effect, an order in council dissolving the Family and Children's Services of the District of Kenora had to be passed. This became effective on October 15, 1984, and was posted.

Members will recall that on January 18, 1984, after monitoring the agency for two years in an attempt to help solve its long-term and serious problems, my ministry was forced by circumstances to take over the operation and management of the Kenora children's aid society. From that date forward, a management team appointed by the ministry ensured that services continued. This team was ably assisted by a local advisory group formed by the ministry to advise and assist the ministry.

Right now, I want to take this opportunity, on behalf of the government of Ontario, to thank the 10 members of the local advisory group for all their hard work. Especially valuable was their advice to my ministry on the operations and future development of child welfare services throughout the far north, especially in the district of Kenora.

The new plans for the north are among the practical results of the historic memorandum of agreement signed on August 22, 1984, by my deputy minister, Robert McDonald, and Dennis Cromarty, grand chief of the Nishnawbe-Aski nation and his six tribal council chiefs, representing 42 Indian bands and communities.

The memorandum of agreement stipulates that the provision of child welfare services for the Indian people in northern Ontario will be gradually transferred to them. The Indian people will provide child and family services in their own communities for their own children.

Let me explain, as briefly as I can, where the services will be, what form they will take, and when they are expected to be in operation.

First, as part of our overall plan, a new corporation, to be known as the Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services, has been established. The corporation will provide services for children and their families in the towns of Kenora, Dryden, Sioux Lookout, Red Lake and adjacent areas. Services will also be provided for the two tribal council districts with their 14 Indian bands and communities.

A second unity, or grouping if you prefer, will be the Tikinagan Child and Family Services. This agency will serve inhabitants of the four tribal council areas in the Pehtabun, Windigo, Kayahna and the central tribal council area, which are portions of the Nishnawbe-Aski nation area, representing 27 Indian bands and communities in the remote north.

The third grouping comprises the most easterly section of the Nishnawbe-Aski nation area, the part under the direction of the Muskegog Cree tribal council. The agency for this district, with its six Indian bands and communities, will be serviced by the Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services, and will include the community of Moosonee.

That gives members an idea of where we stand with this major government of Ontario initiative. It is the firm intention of my ministry and ministry staff to work alongside the Indian people so as to help them achieve their goals and aspirations for their children.

Earlier, I said I would describe what form these three new services would take and when they are expected to start.

Let us look first at the new Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services agency.

This new corporation will acquire its board of directors over the next several months, while my ministry continues to operate and manage the corporation. There will be no break in child welfare services to the community. Later, my ministry will assist in the role of a trustee until the new corporation is able to fulfil its total mandate without ministry assistance.

New bylaws will allow for the composition of the board of directors, for a new mandate and for the recognition of increased and increasing Indian and native self-management in the north of Ontario.

When fully operational, the board will have 13 members. Four members will be Indian chiefs or their representatives from reserves in the area; two will represent urban natives; the municipal association representing the northwest will be asked to supply four directors, one from each municipality, representing Sioux Lookout,

Dryden, Kenora and Red Lake; two will represent the community as a whole. There will also be a chairperson.

Each board member will serve from his or her appointment until December 31, 1986. This time span allows approximately two years for the extensive and beneficial changes in northern Ontario to become a working reality.

With considerable pleasure, I am able to announce today the appointments of four inaugurating directors of the Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services agency. They are Gloria Alcock, director of nursing for the Northwestern Health Unit in Kenora; Joan Best, a foster parent and president of the Sioux Lookout Foster Children's Association; Rosalyn Copenace, member of the board of directors of the Indian Friendship Centre in Kenora, and director of the Kenora Detoxification Centre; and Laura Johnston, president of the Kenora Native Women's Association and a high school teacher in Kenora.

All four were part of the local advisory committee that assisted the ministry during the past several months.

2:10 p.m.

Of course, we are asking the tribal council chiefs in the Kenora and Dryden districts for their nominations and will be in touch with the four municipalities of the Kenora District Municipal Union to ask for the names of their representatives.

I now want to announce what can only be called an exciting innovation concerning the new Kenora-Patricia agency. The board of directors, with the assistance of my ministry, will be developing a native division within the agency in concert with the Indian community that will eventually be run by trained Indian staff.

It is our hope that they will serve clients in the 14 reserves of the Dryden-Kenora areas. When the new native division is fully operational, there will be Indian child prevention workers on the reserves, as well as Indian staff providing the broader range of child welfare services.

We will be working along with the bands and the band councils to develop residential resources on reserves, whether they be extended family homes or other forms of residential care.

The most important fact in these arrangements is that the Indian people, who form 20 per cent of the population on and off the reserves in the Kenora-Patricia catchment area, will eventually be providing services for their own children. We will be working as quickly and as closely as possible in consultation with the bands and band councils to achieve this.

Staff from among this native population will combine the language and culture of their time-honoured history with additional insight learned through training and modern child welfare practices. Children and their families will benefit.

Trained Indian workers within the new native division of Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services will also be able to provide special attention for urban natives, who include status and nonstatus Indians and Metis, and to ensure that their cultural needs continue to be recognized and met.

Moving on now to Tikinagan Child and Family Services, the area it will look after is composed almost entirely of Indian reserves and small Indian communities in the far north. Almost 100 per cent of these reserves and communities are served only by small aircraft and boats. It is a particularly difficult area in which to provide services, to monitor and to keep in touch with, when one thinks of the distances, the lack of roads and the weather. The Tikinagan agency will progressively take on responsibility as Indian staff is assembled and trained.

This agency for the far north is already incorporated, with its head office located on the Big Trout Lake reserve. A suboffice is to be established at Sioux Lookout. Directors have already been appointed. They represent the grand chief of the Nishnawbe-Aski nation, Dennis Cromarty, and the tribal council chiefs of Pehtabun, Windigo, Kayahna and the central tribal council area.

The directors are: Eno Anderson, representing the Kingfisher band and the Kayahna tribal council area; Chief Jofias Fiddler, representing the Sandy Lake band in the Pehtabun tribal council area; Violet Machimity, representing the Savant Lake band in the Windigo tribal council area; William Nothing, deputy grand chief of the Nishnawbe-Aski nation and chairman of the board, Tikinagan Child and Family Services; and Chief Harvey Yesno, representing the Fort Hope band in the central tribal council area.

I am pleased to confirm that this group of people will act as an interim board of directors during the startup period of this new corporation. They will be serving the children and their families on reserves and communities in their own areas.

We know that by April 1, 1989, as part of our memorandum of agreement with the Nishnawbe-Aski nation, Tikinagan Child and Family Services corporation will be operating as a fully independent agency. Meanwhile, services will

be provided, and I will tell the members what my ministry has arranged in co-operation with the Nishnawbe-Aski nation.

The areas of the Pehtabun tribal council, Windigo tribal council and the Kayahna tribal council will acquire the child welfare services they need initially from the Kenora-Patricia Child and Family Services. They will do so until my ministry, in consultation with the trained Tikinagan Indian people, agrees to the total transfer of responsibilities to the Tikinagan agency after the Indian staff has been acquired and fully trained.

I might say that this transfer of services will be done progressively between now and April 1, 1989, as was set out in the agreement.

We have also arranged, in co-operation with the Nishnawbe-Aski nation, that the central tribal council area will purchase services from the Family and Children's Services of the District of Thunder Bay since the central area is closer to Thunder Bay than to Kenora and its communities are particularly spread out and hard to reach and service.

In our third grouping, the Muskegog Cree council area on the west coast of James Bay formed the new corporation. It is known as the Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Family Services and it will be located in the Moosonee area.

On the board of directors of the agency are John Archibald, representing the people of the Cochrane New Post band; Mike Hunter, representing the Winisk band; Alex Metat, representing the Fort Albany band; George Wesley, representing the Kashechewan band; Jean Wesley, representing the Moose Factory band; and Ignace Wheesk, representing the Attawapiskat band. All these representatives are from the Muskegog Cree tribal council area. Also chosen by the Moosonee Development Board to represent the people of Moosonee are Navinka Miljajovick, Helena Ryder and Maude Tyrer.

The Payukotayno: James and Hudson Bay Child and Family Services will look after generic children's services. By that I mean children's mental health, children and youth in conflict with the law under the Young Offenders Act and, of course, child welfare. The new agency will acquire services initially from the North Cochrane District Family Services in Kapuskasing to allow time to train Indian workers and for program organization.

I would like here to mention and to reassure the eight communities and reserves in the Wabun tribal council area. This area will continue to

obtain services through arrangements already in effect with the child welfare agencies in North Cochrane, Thunder Bay, Algoma, Timiskaming and that area of Wabun in the Nishnawbe-Aski nation served by the Sudbury agency as covered by the original memorandum of agreement with the Nishnawbe-Aski nation.

Although I have not gone into detail today, my ministry and the Family and Children's Services of the District of Rainy River have been working with the Rainy River tribal council to organize and bring about the delivery of child welfare services by a new Indian corporation. This corporation will service the needs of children and their families on reserves throughout the Rainy River district.

Let me say that I believe my ministry has initiated and achieved a carefully thought out and workable blueprint for a new era in child welfare for Ontario's northern children and their families. That is the story, as I see it, of child welfare services in northern Ontario today and tomorrow.

A great deal of recognition for these initiatives must go to the hard work of the Nishnawbe-Aski nation, chiefs and councils. Together we have worked out what I can only call an exciting new plan for children and their families for the whole of the far north of Ontario.

We will continue to work with northern Ontario tribal councils in the Treaty 3 area so that the Indian and native services can be brought on in an orderly way throughout the north. We hope to have meetings with other Indian and native people during the winter to reinforce our commitment to change.

We have put in place no fewer than five different models, models designed to achieve the best type of service for each part of that enormous area. We have tried to suit as far as possible those inhabitants of a vast and formidable homeland.

My ministry and the Indian people will go forward together from now on and will deliver in a more effective way improved child welfare services to all children and families in the north who need these services.

ORAL QUESTIONS

ONTARIO STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues concerning the chairman of the Ontario Status of Women Council. As the minister will recall, my colleague the member for Windsor-Sandwich (Mr. Wrye) asked him a

question on June 12 about a replacement for the retired chairman, one Sally Barnes.

He responded then that he was going to look at the Touche Ross study of the role of the council and would respond some time later. He has had that report for months now, and still there is no action.

My question to the minister is a simple one. Why has he not moved to appoint a new chairman to the Ontario Status of Women Council? Does he not take it seriously? Is he trying to slowly strangle it? Is he trying to consolidate all the power in his own hands? Or does he not want that independent review of women's issues in this province?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, the government attaches a great deal of importance to the advisory council and to the appointees to that council. I expect to be making some announcements in connection with the presidency and the vacancies within the next 10 days.

Mr. Peterson: Why has the minister waited so long? There are six vacancies in addition to the chairmanship at the present time. He knows the per capita funding for this council is the lowest of all the provinces in this country. Why has he been so dilatory in responding to the work of that very important council to give an independent review? Why has he been so slack in responding?

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Welch: With the new structure being put in place following the appointment of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, I think it is very important to satisfy ourselves in regard to the respective roles of various bodies as the result of change, the establishment of the directorate. This was the reason we had the objective study. But we will be making some announcements with respect to that and certainly attaching a great deal of credibility to the importance we will continue to assign to the work of this particular council.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, does the fact that the minister's budget contains only a little over five per cent of the total of \$5 million for the advisory council on the status of women indicate the value at which he estimates the council? Does he not think its role of providing the government with advice and recommendations for needed policies on women's issues is a role that requires considerably more resources than that five per cent?

Second, when will he release the Touche Ross report, which pointed out that the members of

this advisory council are paid greatly under what other advisory council members are paid?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I think it is an unfortunate set of facts to share with the House to try to indicate the importance we attach to the council with respect to its particular operating budget.

If the honourable member, who will be my critic when our estimates come up, has really done her preparation with respect to the estimates, she will see there has been a substantial increase with regard to the council in at least two areas, and we will have an opportunity during estimates to discuss that. The Touche Ross report will be made available, so the honourable member will have the benefit of it in preparation for the estimates as well.

I hope the honourable member will be fair enough to remind members of the House and the public at large that the Minister responsible for Women's Issues has been spending a great deal of time dealing directly with many women's groups in this province. But the advisory council is one of many opportunities the minister has to ascertain in a consultative way the attitudes of individual women and women's groups with respect to a number of issues. I deal directly with it and I think this fact is respected by many groups which know they have direct access to the minister and do not have to go through any intermediaries.

Together we will have a fairly good grasp of public feeling with respect to a wide range of issues. The council will continue to form a very important part of that network.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I can recall that when the minister first took this job he spoke about important symbols. I think the symbol that has been sent out by the vacancies over these many months has been a symbol of neglect from his ministry.

I want to come back to the question my leader asked, which was followed up; the minister has not answered it yet. I want to remind him that I remember the last president of the council, Sally Barnes, saying in an appearance before the standing committee on procedural affairs last year that the council had nowhere near to enough money to do the kind of research it needed: research into day care, research into equal pay for work of equal value and a number of other important actions that are very much needed from this government.

Will the minister stand in his place now and tell us Ontario is going to get off dead centre with respect to funding for research and that we will

not be absolutely last of all the provinces in supporting the independent research we need from the Ontario Status of Women Council?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, it should perhaps be emphasized that one of the strongest signals sent out with respect to the commitment of this government to the high importance of women's issues was the assignment of specific responsibilities in that regard to a member of the executive council, followed by the establishment of a directorate in order to carry out some of this co-ordinating work and to bring a sharper focus to this whole issue.

Another very strong signal has been that there are very few women's organizations that have not had an opportunity to meet directly with the minister and make their views known, and that has got to be a very powerful message. I assure the member that we intend to equip the council with personnel and resources to discharge its responsibilities, but I want to assure him that the other signals to which I have made reference are very positive ones and that we have been commended for the leadership we have taken in that regard.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Treasurer. The Treasurer will no doubt remember his last budget on May 15, a document that promised action with respect to youth unemployment in this province some five months ago. Since then we have seen an advertising campaign of close to \$1 million. We have seen a few programs, not nearly as many as were promised, a number cancelled, a number unaccepted by some of the various people who had to be participants, a number not introduced and great confusion reigning throughout the ministry with regard to what is happening.

What is the net effect of the Treasurer's programs when we see today there are still 156,000 unemployed young people in this province, just as there were a year ago? How can the Treasurer prevent the impression among our young people that he is only playing politics with this whole question and not addressing it in a substantive way?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the Leader of the Opposition would be kind enough to share with us details of programs announced in the budget that have been cancelled. There are none. I do not know where he is getting that information.

Of the 10 or 11 programs that were announced in the budget, eight are under way and three are

just about to get under way; in fact, one of those three is also under way and will be confirmed shortly. As projected in May, we have long-term job creation, youth training and employment programs, which I said in May and June would take several months to get up and running because they are important, long-term, different programs. They were not quick fixes. One can get quick fixes up and running right away and then find in September or October one has to do it again. I would remind the member, from the standpoint of accuracy and so he will understand the circumstances of those programs, eight of 11 are under way now.

With regard to the advertising program the member has raised several times, as a result of the advertising campaign, we have received more than 6,000 calls, which would not have come in otherwise.

Mr. Rae: From 6,000 frustrated, angry people.

Mr. O'Neil: How many jobs?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The majority of those calls, I know the member for Quinte (Mr. O'Neil) and others will be sorry to hear, were from employers offering job opportunities to young people, job opportunities that would not have been made available if it were not for our hotline. This was the first time government had reached out to invite the private sector to participate, and we had over 3,000—

Mr. O'Neil: How many jobs?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member for Quinte asked how many jobs resulted. I tell him more than 3,000 private sector jobs have been provided to disadvantaged young people as a result of that program.

Mr. Peterson: Would the Treasurer not agree with me that confusion reigns and that the ninth point of his 10-point program was quietly cancelled, the \$1.25 an hour wage subsidy for part-time employment for students?

In addition to that, the Ontario Youth Corps program that was supposed to involve the participation of the municipalities has not lived up to its expectations and has had some 44 per cent participation by the municipalities. The Ontario youth tourism program the Treasurer promised last year was not announced until September 24, and it will still be weeks before it gets under way. Of those 2,500 jobs he promised, only 485 will be produced this year.

Would the Treasurer not agree with me that confusion still reigns in the ministry?

The Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), his close friend and associate, put out a press release advertising a winter Experience program a few days after it was cancelled by one of the Treasurer's other programs. Would he not agree with me that there is still confusion reigning? He has not lived up to the promise, and he is using it only for political reasoning, announcing things when it suits his own personal political timetable.

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I would not agree with the the Leader of the Opposition at all. His information is, not for the first time, inaccurate. We have introduced those programs as they are ready. I might remind him, as he continues to convince himself in a fit of paranoia that we are holding these things off to suit our own political convenience, that one of the three programs that has not yet been announced, or rather commenced—they have all been announced—is youth enterprise. When the Leader of the Opposition reflects upon it, I know he will agree with me that it would have been foolish to run to venture capital programs for young people at the same time.

We said in May, June and July, that program would be launched when the summer program, the youth venture capital program, 10 or 11 years old, ended for the summer. Instead of waiting until next summer to start it again, we were going to turn it into a year-round venture capital program.

If the member thinks there is something surreptitious in the fact that we waited until October to commence the enterprise program year-round, given the fact that the equivalent program runs essentially from June until the end of September, there is no political timing in that; that is good management. He would not expect us to duplicate it, and if we did, we would have been fooling him and duplicating our own programs.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, seeing that the Treasurer's programs have failed to produce the 100,000 youth jobs he promised this Legislature in June of this year, will he give a commitment that, putting aside his personal political timetable, he will bring in a mini-budget this fall that will create substantial youth jobs over the winter period?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: No. The second part of the answer is that the member wants to continue to say we did not produce 100,000 jobs when, in fact, what he is doing is ignoring the actual unemployment figures and the work force

figures. He knows that. He knows the way he is playing with the numbers.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer knows the way he is playing with them.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member knows very well that the work force increases by more than 100,000 people in the summer. He knows very well, since the unemployment rate did not go up during the summer, that means there must have been 100,000 more jobs available for the 100,000 more people that came into the work force or, as even his caucus office could tell him, the youth unemployment rate would have gone up during the summer.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Treasurer does not agree with me, and I would not expect he would. But does he agree with his own youth commissioner, the increasingly frustrated youth commissioner, Ken Dryden, who is reported in the *Toronto Star* by Martin Cohn as saying, "He had been instructed by the Treasurer's office to keep quiet about forthcoming initiatives until the Treasurer can announce them personally"?

Does he agree with Ken Dryden that he is using this for his own personal agenda by withholding details of the programs and withholding announcements only so he can get maximum political credit rather than really attacking the serious problems in this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I want to be very clear on that. If the Leader of the Opposition thinks civil servants or public employees are going to be announcing the onset of new government programs, how they are to operate, and telling the public about them, he is mistaken. There is no tradition of that. That is not the way any government operates, nor is it the way any government should operate. So long as we are on this side of the House—and, by the way, if the member ever had a short visit over here, he would operate the same way—the politicians will answer for those programs, the politicians will announce those programs and, unlike him, the politicians over here will also shoulder the burden of paying for those programs and raising the taxes for them.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. I have a copy of a letter from the Occidental Chemical Corp., which many of us know as the old Hooker Chemicals company. It is written to the Depart-

ment of Environmental Conservation of New York state and is dated August 10, 1984.

The letter contains the disturbing information that, as a result of surveys done on the Niagara River gorge, the results indicate, to quote from the letter: "There are chemicals known to be present in the Hyde Park landfill site which are now present in the seeps. This is a substantial change from testing which was done just a couple of years ago."

Is the minister aware of the results of those tests? Is he aware that they show that a great many chemicals from the Hyde Park dump site are seeping into the gorge, including substantial portions of 2,4,5-trichlorophenol, which, as the minister will know, is the chemical frequently associated with a separate test for dioxin, and tests for dioxin have not been completed? Is he aware of this profound and disturbing information? What has the government of Ontario done to remedy this threat to the drinking water in Lake Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I know the leader of the third party is aware that we have intervened directly with the courts in the state of New York to bring our very serious concerns to the attention not only of the Environmental Protection Agency, but also of the commissioner of resources and environment in New York state.

We are aware of the limited seepage that is occurring from the Niagara River gorge, directly attributable to the leachate from the Hyde Park site. As I am sure the member is aware, for some three or four years now we have had a study team that works the Niagara River on a continuing basis. Not only do we negotiate with our American friends on a regular basis, but we are sampling and monitoring there to determine exactly to what extent the damage is occurring. We share the same concerns the honourable member has and, along with the federal government, we will continue to make our concerns known not only to New York state, but to Occidental Chemical as well.

Mr. Rae: This is not a question of concern; this is a question of taking action against one of the 20 largest corporations in the western world. The minister mentioned court action. I assume he is talking about the S area intervention, which we all know about. We all know the impact that had on the American court system.

The 1909 Boundary Waters Treaty signed by the United States and Canada says, "It is further agreed that the waters on either side that are designated as boundary waters shall not be

polluted on either side to the injury of health or property of the other."

In the light of that, specifically with respect to the Hyde Park site—not the S area site—what legal action does the ministry plan to take to protect the water that is such an important source of life and such an important source of health for the people of this province? We are far more affected than the Americans by what is happening. Precisely what legal steps is the minister taking to protect the drinking water of the people of this province?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: With respect to environmental damage, when we discuss those issues in this House, it is interesting to note that we so frequently have to refer to the problems on the American side. Let me suggest that would give some indication of the advances we have made on the Ontario side in protecting our environment here. That is the first thing I think the member should take account of.

Second, we are the only jurisdiction that intervened with the state of New York and Occidental Chemical on the S site. We are quite prepared to move on the Hyde Park site as well and we are reviewing that situation very actively at the moment.

It is interesting to note that the federal government did not intervene directly, although it commented and negotiated with the federal government on this matter in the United States. We have been the only jurisdiction, as the member well knows, that has taken any action whatsoever. We will continue to act in a responsible way, as we have in the past.

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, the minister will realize that the intervention with respect to Hyde Park was led mostly by the people of Operation Clean Niagara and other public interest groups, which he refused at the time to fund and provide with backup information. The minister went ahead and intervened on his own on the S area and completely befuddled the whole process because of his lack of expertise. This letter now indicates that the programs and concerns raised about the Hyde Park area by those public interest groups were right on their mark.

Can the minister tell us that he is now admitting to this Legislature that the public interest groups of this province are far and away ahead of his ministry and far and away more in tune with the concerns of the public of this province?

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. May I have some attention to what is going on in the House? If the members want to carry on private conversations, please do so outside the House.

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I needed that. I am not going to agree with my colleague with respect to some of the remarks he has made. As a matter of fact, I may well disagree with all of the remarks he has made.

With respect to the Hyde Park site, he mentioned some of the environmental groups in the area. I was delighted to personally review and to visit that site in the company of one Mrs. Margherita Howe, who is the head of Operation Clean Niagara. We are working co-operatively with the environmental groups to take whatever action is deemed to be most effective on behalf of the citizens of Ontario.

In connection with the speculation on that side of the House relative to the court case we recently had in New York state, I want to say the member does not know what the outcome of that case will be. He can speculate as to what the outcome may be, but on this side of the House, we still maintain the position that we engaged an extremely effective law firm. That law firm—

Mr. Elston: They went in there with a gun filled with blanks.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am trying to answer the question. That law firm represented the interests of the province in a most effective way. The difficulty is that members on the other side cannot accept the kind of success we are achieving on this side of the House.

Mr. Rae: If the Minister of the Environment is saying the evidence we now have is that there is a very strong potential that dioxin has seeped into the gorge of the Niagara River and that is somehow a symbol of the success of the Tory government in this province, then I say it is the kind of success they can keep. I do not think the people of Ontario want it.

The minister should know, and I am sure he does know, that there is estimated to be a ton of dioxin at the Hyde Park site. The leading expert on dioxin from Environment Canada has said, "If one shovelful, three pounds, were mobilized into the Niagara River, the levels of TTCD would likely be elevated between 10 and 100 times the present level." That is the threat; it is a real and present threat; it is a present danger. The government is going to have to take some extraordinary remedies to deal with this situation.

I would like to ask the minister specifically with regard to the Hyde Park agreement, which has been signed, sealed and delivered and which is not in the best interests of the people of this province or of the people of Canada, what steps

he is taking to have that agreement changed, or however he wants to say it—thrown out or amended—so we can guarantee that there will be remedies, not simply to contain the Hyde Park dump, but to start to remove the poisons there which threaten the water that is the very lifeblood of this province.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: This will come as a complete surprise to the leader of the third party, but he does not have a monopoly on concern with respect to the problem that exists in New York state. We are equally concerned. We do not deny the fact that approximately a ton of dioxin could well be in place at the Hyde Park site. Ultimately, we recognize as well that contaminant could leak into the Niagara River. I want to assure him that we will take every responsible and appropriate action. We have been doing this consistently with respect to the American sites and we will continue to do it in the future.

If the member has any suggestions as to how to move either arbitrarily or unilaterally on American interests with respect to a problem that exists on their soil, then I ask him please to advise me because I am not about to declare war on the Americans.

FOREST REGENERATION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have in my hand a spruce seedling. I would like to ask a question of the Minister of Natural Resources who was quoted, in a recent *Globe and Mail* on September 21, 1984, as saying that the quality of planting "has no relevance at all to the final forest product." Is the minister seriously arguing that it makes no difference whether the seedling is planted right side up or upside down? Which is it: Green side up? Can the minister tell us? What is he seriously arguing about the quality of planting in northern Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Pope: Mr. Speaker, the leader of the New Democratic Party would not know which side is up anyway.

Those were not my words; those were the words of Mr. MacMillan, whose study was quoted by Mr. Marek in his report to me and to the ministry. Mr. MacMillan indicated in his report that there is no relationship between a performance rating of testing and survival rates or performance or yield rates of those crops. The honourable member understands that was the relationship I was describing.

He can split hairs all he wants. He cannot stand the fact that in the northwestern and north-central regions in the past three years we have tripled the number of seedlings we are planting. He cannot

stand that we have increased our budget for reforestation by 70 per cent over the past three years. He cannot stand that we have increased the number of seedlings we are planting from 80 million to 155 million. He cannot stand that he has lost a factual argument.

Mr. Rae: What the minister has said is substantially different, if I may say—I will put it no stronger than that because I do not want to have to withdraw what I say—from what Mr. MacMillan has said, and the minister should know that.

Mr. MacMillan says: "First, the planting quality, although having a broad range, has tended to 50 per cent, but that a precise relationship between planting quality level to bare root stock performance could not be developed."

That is a very different statement from the minister's casual and rather bizarre statement that the quality of planting has no relevance at all to the final forest product.

The minister has tried to dismiss Mr. George Marek, who others in the field feel is a very highly respected forester. We have two reports from Mr. Marek indicating the question now is not the number of trees being planted but the quality of tree planting, the supervision of tree planting and the tending of trees rather than simply scattering them about and hoping and praying everything will be for the best, which is the policy of the ministry at present.

In the light of Mr. Marek's report and of Mr. MacMillan's report, does the minister not think it is time for an independent audit of the forests in Ontario to determine how serious the situation is and to determine whether the minister is right in all the casual and cavalier statements he has been making across northern Ontario and in this House with respect to reforestation?

Hon. Mr. Pope: The leader of the New Democratic Party is an expert in making cavalier statements about reforestation in Ontario. The NDP task force on forestry spent six months making cavalier statements across northern Ontario on reforestation. That is who the expert is on cavalier statements.

I am glad the member finally admits, for the first time in four years, the question is no longer one of numbers. He admits we are planting more than two trees for every one we cut. He admits we are planting 155 million seedlings. He admits we have rapidly accelerated our financial commitment to reforestation. For the first time, he has admitted numbers are no longer the question. I

am thankful he has finally admitted that after so much evidence being thrown at him for so long.

Of course the question is one of quality. We discussed that in the estimates last year. We are looking at better sites for more intensive forest management practices. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and I had that discussion during estimates.

Of course the question is one of the quality of planting. That is why two and a half years ago we listened to the statements from foresters including Mr. Marek, who has been saying the same thing for many years. We listened to those statements. We changed our process. We now have field inspections of the planting sites with proposed contractors. We now monitor them more intensively than ever before. We now have foresters there every other day to monitor planting contract performance. We put into place the very improvements Mr. Marek was talking about.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the minister simply to answer this question. He can attempt, as he has attempted to do across the north, to carry out a character assassination of people such as Mr. Marek and some foresters at Lakehead University and elsewhere—

Mr. Mackenzie: Right on.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: That is exactly what the minister has done with respect to Mr. Marek. The minister knows that perfectly well. We now have two separate reports from Mr. Marek calling into question the efficiency of the Ministry of Natural Resources and the quality of its information with respect to the second forest and with respect to what is happening to wood supply and reforestation, and now we have a specific report from Mr. Marek with respect to the quality of the reforestation effort and the quality of planting.

In the light of that information from Mr. Marek, why does the minister not establish an independent audit of the forest rather than continuing to engage in this kind of character assassination of Mr. Marek and any other critic he does not agree with?

Hon. Mr. Pope: The honourable leader of the third party has a point with respect to the fact that professional foresters disagree, and have for many years, on some of these issues. There are different points of view; they have been expressed and they will continue to be expressed.

I did not give the first interview with respect to Mr. Marek's report. It was not me at all. I was

asked to respond to it. I released the report four days after I received it.

Talking about character assassination, I heard the leader of the third party in Thunder Bay when he said the real problem of reforestation in this province was the minister and his attitude and his characteristics. He can comment on my character all he wants. The fact is—

Mr. Rae: I have never commented on the minister's character.

Hon. Mr. Pope: Yes, he did. I heard it on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. when I was on Radio Noon. Five minutes before I was on Radio Noon on an open-line show, I heard a tape of what the leader of the third party said in Thunder Bay; so he cannot shake his head and deny it.

In regard to the two Marek reports, and this is very important, the first report made 37 recommendations. Of those, 26 or 27 were already in place in the forest manual of operation. They were already in place because Mr. Marek had been making those points for a long time in the Ministry of Natural Resources. He was being listened to and changes in the procedures of the ministry were being made.

With respect to the second report on the quality of planting operations, we were listening to Mr. Marek. Two and a half years ago, we made changes for the better in the way we carried on that contract work so as to have better inspection and better-quality performance under the contracts. We have already moved in the areas where Mr. Marek wanted us to move.

AUTOMOBILE REPAIRS

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations regarding what is probably the greatest source of complaints among consumers in this province; that is, the automobile repair business. Even the city of North York has taken its own action and encouraged the province to take certain action. I am going to ask the minister in the House this afternoon whether he is prepared to initiate legislation that would have the following effects.

First of all, bring into effect a lemon law that would permit consumers to receive a refund in the event they have been sold what we call an unfixable vehicle. It would require warranties for used cars and the provision of a history of a vehicle's repairs whenever it is sold commercially, and it would compel garages to post all wages and notices where the mechanics or others are paid on commission.

Although this would not require any legislation, would the minister also give an undertaking to vastly expand the ghost car program currently in effect through his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, as I hope the honourable member will understand, the remarks he has made are based upon the Metro task force. There may be others who have said the same thing, but I think that in essence is what he is repeating.

It is not unfair to say that those are matters we have under review. As the member probably knows, we have been in the process of having in-depth discussions with all automobile manufacturers, including imported motor vehicle manufacturers, about the possibility of some type of arbitration program. It is not finalized yet, but clearly we are working in that direction.

With respect to the other two areas, they are matters we have under review. Our ghost car program has been applauded by many, and there have been many who have suggested it should be increased. That is purely and simply a matter of whether, in these times, more funding can be obtained for it. Certainly it is an effort I will continue to make.

Mr. Bradley: The minister will know that in the absence of immediate action on the part of his ministry, certain municipalities likely will attempt to address this problem by themselves within the narrow areas for which they might be responsible. Looking at the city of North York, for instance, would the minister not rather have his government implement a measure that would require that all work to be done on a car be authorized through a signature, so one does not have what are referred to as five o'clock surprises?

Second, will he also implement a program on a province-wide basis that would require those repairing automobiles to return all the used parts to the owner, if the owner wishes, so we do not have them ending up somewhere else and so there is some proof the work was done?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I applaud the efforts of any municipality that takes those steps. I can only repeat that we have those areas under active review.

I remind the member—I do not say this because it is going to deter us in our considerations and, I hope, our ultimate recommendations—that we have to acknowledge the fact that when we talk about used car warranties we are talking about less than 50 per cent of cars being sold through used car lots. We are not trying to deceive the public in general as we pursue our decisions, but

the rules will change for every used car that is sold.

We also should not forget that whatever steps we take, and this should not deter us from our consideration if it is correct, they will all add to the cost of the process. However, we still have the issues under review. If I have matters to report to the House, I will do so.

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, the minister will also recall it was more than a year ago that he said he would examine proposals found in my private member's bill and in legislation already introduced and working in other jurisdictions, such as parts of the United States, concerning lemon-aid and other forms of protection for consumers. Why does it take the minister so long to introduce legislation in Ontario to protect Ontario consumers that is already operative in other jurisdictions?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, not to be argumentative about it, I think that if the honourable member has followed the discussions that have taken place about lemon laws and has followed the so-called history of those lemon laws, he will find, as they have found in those states that initiated them—Connecticut, for example—that the fundamental flaw in the way they went at it was that there was not an adequate arbitration process in place. We are trying to go at it the right way, and I think that is the approach the member would want us to take.

ALLOCATION OF HOUSING UNITS

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing arising out of an article that appeared in the Ottawa Citizen on October 12. I want to ask the minister whether he saw the article, which deals with the situation of a 45-year-old Ottawa woman who was in receipt of the provincial guaranteed annual income system for the disabled pension and who was denied subsidized housing in Ottawa solely by virtue of the fact that she suffers from a mental illness.

May I ask the minister why his ministry continues to discriminate systematically against single recipients of Gains disability pensions and other citizens by refusing them rent-geared-to-income subsidies if they suffer from a mental illness? Is it simply as his regional manager for the Ontario Housing Corp. in Ottawa said, "It is simple economics"? Is that the reason, or if there is some other explanation, what is it?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bennett: Mr. Speaker, the mandate of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and

Housing, and more specifically the Ontario Housing Corp., clearly covers four specific groups in this province.

We have covered senior citizens, who have the right to make application, and families with lower income and other problems as far as living conditions are concerned. The honourable member will recall that five years ago we broadened the terms to allow for the physically handicapped to be eligible to have entry to publicly assisted units. About three years later, we broadened those terms for the mentally handicapped as well, for them to become eligible for the assisted units we have in this province. Some of those people who are physically and mentally handicapped do qualify under the guaranteed annual income system for the disabled and are eligible for entry into the units provided through the assistance of the taxpayer.

I must admit I do not have the details or the background on the 45-year-old lady. I know of the newspaper story, but beyond that I am not aware of all the statistics relating to that application.

Let me also suggest to the member that the organization the individual referred to, which is the Ottawa Centretown Citizens co-op, already does house within its portfolio people with the mental handicap problem.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, has the minister read his own newsletter dated June 2, 1984? Under "Eligibility of Individuals Under 60 Years Old," it states, "All individuals in receipt of Gains-D are not necessarily eligible for rent-geared-to-income housing." It goes on to state that the physically handicapped are eligible, as the minister said, and the developmentally handicapped are eligible, as the minister just said. Then it says, "Persons whose conditions are defined as psychiatric are not included in this definition." In other words, they are ineligible.

Does the minister not understand this is a clear violation of the Human Rights Code of this province, which guarantees that every person has the right to equal treatment with respect to the occupancy of accommodation without discrimination because of, among other things, handicap or the receipt of public assistance? Has it not penetrated his mind that this is blatant discrimination in violation of the Human Rights Code of this province, to say nothing of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms? How long does he intend to permit this miserably mean-spirited policy to prevail?

Hon. Mr. Bennett: As I said in my previous answer, there are already people within the co-op

organization the member refers to who fall within the mentally ill, handicapped or psychiatric category. I made that remark at the conclusion of my answer to the first question.

Let me suggest to this House there is an opportunity, and it exists right here in Toronto, whereby organizations that wish to respond specifically to that particular problem have established private nonprofit corporations and, indeed, co-op organizations and are eligible for allocation under those programs by the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp.; and, provided that certain services are included within that corporation, some of the units are made available. That situation is in practise right here in the community of Toronto.

I indicated clearly yesterday in Ottawa that if the provisions are made, organizations wishing to establish the same type of nonprofit organization in Ottawa would, in my opinion, be eligible for the allocation from CMHC, units to be made available to them on a rent-geared-to-income basis or under the Ontario community housing assistance program, to allow for the mentally ill or those with psychiatric problems to be part of the rent-geared-to-income program. But there is also an adult community mental health program that must be in place. It is here in Toronto and it is working effectively.

CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Attorney General. I recently conducted a survey in my riding on the issue of capital punishment, and 92 per cent of those who responded to this survey call for a return of the death penalty in Canada.

In the light of this strong public sentiment in favour of capital punishment and in view of the recent tragic deaths of six police officers, will the Attorney General recommend to the federal Solicitor General, Elmer MacKay, a thorough review of the federal parole system and the reinstatement of capital punishment?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that the question reflects a very deep-seated, broad public concern not only about the very tragic deaths of the police officers but also about a number of very terrible crimes. Obviously, the administration of justice has to appear to be responding adequately.

In so far as the death penalty is concerned, I expect it will be a lively topic of debate for some time to come. I just want to add that whether the death penalty is restored or not, unfortunately it is not likely to have a significant impact on the

incidence of murder. This is recognized by the Canadian Association of Chiefs of Police. The argument that while this may not be shown to reduce the incidence of murder it is nevertheless the only appropriate response to certain terrible crimes, is an argument that undoubtedly will have a considerable amount of weight, not only with the majority of our citizens but also with many parliamentarians.

The point I want to stress is that the member is right that part of the review must be in relation to the parole system. We must have a review in relation not only to the parole system but also the whole system of mandatory supervision. We have to address in a very fundamental fashion the whole issue of dangerous offenders in the community, because whether or not we have the death penalty—and I am not speaking on this occasion for or against the death penalty—the resolution of that debate is not going to solve the issue.

The issues are very complex and very broad. As I said, the issues are the review of the parole system, the mandatory supervision system, and the whole issue of sentencing and what we do with dangerous offenders in the community, most of whom will never be candidates for the death penalty, whether or not the death penalty is restored.

Last week, I spoke about some other attitudes in the community related to this incredible interest in mindless violence as entertainment. These are all part of the issues that have to be addressed. I would hope the Minister of Justice for Canada, with provincial Attorneys General and Solicitors General, will deal with these issues at our upcoming meetings this fall. I will be having dinner tonight with the Minister of Justice for Canada and certainly these issues will be very much part of our conversation.

Mr. Hennessy: I again ask the minister if he would consider recommending to the Solicitor General of Canada a referendum or a free vote on capital punishment in the federal House of Commons.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: I do not think I can really add anything to what I have already said. I think my views on this issue are quite well known. For a provincial Attorney General to recommend to the federal Parliament how to deal with this very emotional issue is not an appropriate course of action.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I notice that the Attorney General was on television within recent times saying it is time to review—I believe what he was saying was it is time to reassess—the

whole issue of the death penalty. Would the Attorney General reveal to the House this afternoon whether he is for or against capital punishment?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, that is not what I said on television.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, by way of a supplementary question to the Attorney General and addressing what I believe to be the question put to him by the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy), I refer to the article in the Toronto Star on October 10 of this year by Derek Ferguson referring to Daniel Belanger, who was killed in the shootout in Woodstock a week ago Sunday. He was referring to his prior record and particularly to the circumstances under which he was arrested and the account given by Sergeant John Lamont of Metro's holdup division.

In his remarks outlining that, he stated: "Lamont arrested Belanger on January 12, 1983, at his sister's home in Montreal and charged him with the armed robbery of the Swiss Watch and Clock Co. at 350 Yonge Street on January 3, 1983. Belanger was subsequently found guilty and sentenced to four years and three months in jail, including a one-year sentence for possession of an illegal weapon. Belanger was jailed at the Kingston area prison in May 1983 and released on day parole on January 10, 1984, said Jacques Belanger, no relation, spokesman for Canada's Penitentiary Services."

In those circumstances, does the minister not believe—as the member for Fort William was trying to get him to say—it is his responsibility to recommend to the Solicitor General in Ottawa and to the Minister of Justice in Ottawa the imperative necessity for an immediate review with respect to the parole system related to the kind of incident to which I have just referred?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate that I have been requesting the federal Solicitor General for many months to review the present parole legislation and regulations. The very heated correspondence between myself and the former Solicitor General, Mr. Kaplan, is now a matter of public record.

This is a matter we have been urging upon the federal government for many months. It was the subject of a meeting of Attorneys General last month. It will continue to be the subject of our discussions, and I am heartened by the fact that the new federal Solicitor General recognizes the need to address this problem.

EASTERN ONTARIO DEVELOPMENT

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Trade. The minister will recall that last year we asked a number of questions and produced background documents concerning the continuing decline in support for the Eastern and Northern Ontario Development Corps. compared with the Ontario Development Corp. in southern Ontario.

A short while ago, the 1983-84 list of ODC loans and guarantees was released and this document shows the trend is continuing. Last year, the ODC in the south accounted for the largest share yet, of the total commitments of the three corporations—72.3 per cent. The share of the northern corporation also rose, to almost 19 per cent, but remains well below the 28 per cent level of the first few years and it still receives less than its due.

Is the minister aware that the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. share of total commitments dropped to 8.7 per cent from 14.7 per cent the year before and from more than 35 per cent not so long ago? The gross dollar amount fell to \$6.5 million from \$11.6 million the previous year and \$22.8 million five years ago, even without adjusting for inflation.

The people and the members from eastern Ontario, both myself and members of his own party, are asking the minister what he is going to do to revamp the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. so we can pick up additional funding and some help from the minister's offices in that area.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is implying that the drop is because we have allocated fewer dollars to the Eastern Ontario Development Corp. That is not the case. I had a chat with the chairman of the EODC five or six months ago, when he expressed the concern that he was not getting as many applications as he would like from that area.

The process is driven by the investor. We have to have people making requests for loans. We do have approximately \$3 million a month, as I recall, in total commitments made. This is divided up among the applications, but, in truth, there would be no problem putting more money into the areas where the greatest demand is.

If the member can point out to me—and I would be glad to get this information if it exists—that we have been turning down eastern Ontario requests to make room for money in the central region, then I would think he had a very valid point. My argument is simple. Whether I as a person from Muskoka like it or not, whether the member as a person from Quinte likes it or not, the demand for

loans of a commercially viable type from our areas has not been as great as it has been from other parts of the province.

Mr. O'Neil: Mr. Speaker, when one sees it drop to about \$6 million last year, when we had a high in 1978 and 1979 of more than \$22 million, I would say that is a sufficient drop. When he has his own members and a lot of municipal leaders coming to him and saying eastern Ontario is not getting the attention it should be getting, there is something definitely wrong.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade should be helping to locate industry in all parts of eastern Ontario and his offices in both Kingston and Toronto should be more active in steering industry to eastern Ontario—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. O'Neil: —and seeing that the leads that come in are looked after. Will the minister look at revamping some of those offices and some of the staff he has there to see that we get our fair share of money and industry in eastern Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Nothing would make me happier than to have more industry go to eastern or northern Ontario or, indeed, to central Ontario—Eastern Ontario, by that definition, starts just east of Oshawa—because it is much easier, for whatever reason, to get industries to locate in the Golden Horseshoe area than in the rest of the province.

This government has never really forced industry into any part of the province. There are some who would say we should. We have used inducements but we have never used force. The first objective we have to insist upon is that a company can be viable in the area where it chooses to locate. That is very important. One of the biggest mistakes one can make is to force an industry into an area where it will grow for a while, wither on the vine and leave the town worse off than if it had never opened.

I saw that happen in my town after the predecessors to the Department of Regional Economic Expansion grants brought people to the north in the mid-1960s. Companies lasted for three or four years. I can think of the Corning glass company in Muskoka which suddenly disappeared. We have a large work force left out of work. Maybe it is better to have loved and lost than never to have loved at all, but it is pretty tough when that happens.

DEATH OF POLICEMAN

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Solicitor General. It arises out of the uncertainty with respect to when the inquest will

be held into the death of Constable Jack Ross who was killed in Woodstock a week ago Sunday.

On Friday last my colleague the member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt) asked the Provincial Secretary for Justice (Mr. Walker) about this matter in the Solicitor General's absence. The Provincial Secretary for Justice stated that the inquest, as he understood it, would proceed very quickly and that it was not going to take a significant amount of time to have the report published. He said it would be published and made available to everyone in very short order.

Would the minister confirm to the House that there is no impediment of any kind that would delay the holding of this inquest? Could he tell us when the inquest will commence and whether or not, in any way, there will be any protracted delay of it?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, there is no particular reason for a delay other than putting together the necessary information. As the member may know, the background situation is that currently the police are investigating the situation. There are certain ballistics tests that have to be done and certain autopsy and post-mortem tests that have to be completed. After that is done, the regional coroner will arrange for a date, which will be conditional upon the availability of the necessary witnesses and facilities to carry it out.

At present we have projected a date in late December or early January. However, there is no impediment other than the procedure of getting on with the inquest.

PETITION

INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS

Mr. Kolyn: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the members for Wentworth (Mr. Dean) and Elgin (Mr. McNeil), I wish to present the following petition:

"To the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the Legislative Assembly of Ontario:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to appeal to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"As resident electors, many of us send our children to independent schools because we believe parents have a prior right to choose the kind of education that shall be given to their child.

"Most independent school supporters are people of modest means. We ask for your help in reducing the unfair burden of what, in effect, is double taxation.

"Our school operates in the public interest. We ask for protection for the rights of our school to its existence and the remission of taxes taken away by the province of Ontario but not used for the education of our children."

3:20 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Nixon: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: How do we get the lights turned out?

Mr. Speaker: I would think that if they do not go off automatically, we make a simple request to the Sergeant at Arms to turn the lights out.

House in committee of the whole.

EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS AMENDMENT ACT (continued)

Resuming the adjourned consideration of Bill 141, An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act.

On section 1:

The Acting Chairman (Mr. Edighoffer): I understand the last discussion took place on June 13 on an amendment from the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie).

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, it is interesting to have this bill before us again. In effect, what we have before us is not the bill, but the New Democratic Party amendment, which would strike out all of section 1 on equal pay and replace it with a provision that would establish equal pay for work of equal value as part of the Employment Standards Act.

This amendment is a very important piece of legislation because it would affect a great many women in Ontario. It is an essential step to obtaining equality for women in the work place. It may not be the only step to achieve equality for women. We need affirmative action, we need retraining programs and we need other moves to enhance the opportunities for women, but we cannot do without equal pay for work of equal value if we are going to close the wage gap.

I rather regret the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) has still not deigned to attend any of this debate or to speak in it. If it is in the government's view a real move forward, I would have thought he would be here to defend the legislation and to speak proudly of it, but he has left it to his parliamentary assistant to handle the bill. I am not questioning the competence or the ability of the parliamentary assistant to do it, but I would have liked to have seen the Minister of Labour also participating in the exercise.

I also regret the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch) is not here and has not participated in this debate so far. This rather surprises me because he spoke in the October 20 debate on the motion that the Legislature endorse the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. However, he has not come into the House.

The other day, I was rereading his remarks in that debate. He never once mentioned the words "equal pay for work of equal value." He simply said this was part of his "staged progress" towards obtaining equality for women.

I think my leader once called it, not staged progress, but stage-managed progress because so far we do not seem to have had much progress in this area. For example, there were some figures from Statistics Canada recently that said, of the wage gap between what men and women earn on average, that women's earnings were 64 per cent of men's earnings in 1983. The year before it was only 63 per cent. If one can call that staged progress, it is very slow progress.

I would like to read one or two of the comments made by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues on his concept of how he is going to bring about staged progress. He said his goal is "ensuring the equal participation of women in the work force," and he has a "continuing commitment to the objective of justice, fairness and equity as an ongoing and developing process." He said, "We must continue to move forward until this goal is reached, when we have done everything possible and practical to remove any obstacles that stand in the way."

If this is staged progress, it is hard to see where the progress is. He finally concluded his speech by saying, "...we will move forward by the introduction of additional stages based on sound, workable improvements to be seen, therefore—if I can put it this way—as staged progress to a stated goal."

It is not clear that his goal is equal pay for work of equal value, since he never mentioned it, and his so-called "staged progress" has been shown to be at a snail's pace by the latest figures from Statistics Canada.

When my leader asked a question about equal pay in the House recently, I recall the Minister responsible for Women's Issues said he would like to see a specific example from Quebec, since we have been citing Quebec as a place that has an equal pay law, where there was an award based on its law dealing with substantially dissimilar jobs. On June 20 he said: "I invite him to show

me a true equal pay for work of equal value decision in Quebec dealing with substantially dissimilar jobs. Let him just produce one; that is all I ask him to do."

3:30 p.m.

I telephoned Quebec and spoke to a woman, Muriel Garon, who is one of the researchers with its human rights commission. I have her report here. This was in June. I asked her what the history of equal pay awards has been under the Quebec law, which uses the word "équivalent," equivalent, for the wages that are to be brought in for men and women. The argument of the minister was that most of the Quebec awards have been on the basis of equal pay for similar jobs, but the word "équivalent" can cover dissimilar jobs.

What Muriel Garon reported to me was that, since this law came into effect in 1976, there have been 37 cases under this law and 20 have gone through the full process. There were 12 withdrawn for lack of jurisdiction and five were withdrawn for other reasons. Of that 20, nine, or almost half, were based on equivalent or dissimilar work. Of the other 11, there was no information on five as to whether they were based on dissimilar or similar work and six were based on similar work. So almost half were based on dissimilar work.

It seems to me that the Minister responsible for Women's Issues was trying to indicate he had information that most of the cases were not based on comparisons of dissimilar work. It seems to show that his information is flawed and that he has not really checked into how this law is working in Quebec.

I could give him the list of the cases. I have here their report that shows the kind of companies that have had awards made under the equivalent section. It includes both public and private sector companies. It includes an armament company where the men put the pieces together for a kind of armament and the women put in the powder, as it were. They each put part of the components together, but it was dissimilar work. It was considered equivalent work even though it was not the same operation.

There was an award in the food and beverage industry. There was an award in a hospital comparing nurses and orderlies and things of that sort. In all cases, these were awards where the women's work, even though dissimilar, was considered equivalent. I think it is time the minister got up to date on what is going on in Quebec.

With regard to the equal pay for work of equal value section in the Canadian Human Rights Act, that has now been in effect since 1978 and there have been a considerable number of awards there. There have been awards providing for several millions of dollars for women who were not being paid the same wages for work of equal value. For example, 3,000 food, laundry and general service workers, two thirds of whom were women, received approximately \$17 million in adjustments when their wages were compared with other subgroups in the federal public service.

There have been other awards in the federal service over the years. They are continuing to add to their staff and to add to their guidelines and their knowledge of how this law can be applied. They have now published a considerable number of manuals and guidelines that indicate that it is a workable law and that it can be implemented on a fair and equitable basis. We have had job evaluation schemes in effect throughout industry for a great many years, and the methods have been refined considerably. Equal pay for work of equal value is simply a new kind of job evaluation that takes out the sex bias.

It has been suggested that if one really looked at all job evaluation schemes with this in mind, one might do a great deal towards improving job evaluation schemes, generally, for all workers. All of them have grown up, over the years, some of them with built-in biases that come from the market for different kinds of employees or come with different ratings on educational qualifications that may not all be essential but that have been written into the job evaluation schemes. There are a lot of advantages to working in the field of job evaluation schemes and improving the methods.

I also discovered recently a report done back in 1974 by Lynn McDonald, who was then a professor of sociology and is now a federal member of Parliament. It showed that women lost approximately \$3 billion in wage and salary income because they did not receive equal pay for work of equal value. That was 10 years ago and probably the figure would be double that now, taking into account inflationary trends and how wages and salaries have gone up. The gap has probably made that loss double what it was then.

The recent Statistics Canada figures, which I mentioned earlier, showed the wage gap was now 64 cents on the dollar and had been 63 cents. Back in 1967 it was 58 cents on the dollar. This is the figure on which the newspapers put a

headline that there was slow progress towards closing the gap.

My colleague the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) in the House the other day worked out that the progress from a 58-cents gap to a 64-cents gap between 1967 and 1982 amounted to 0.4 cents a year. He figured out, at that rate, the remaining wage gap of 36 cents would close within 90 years. It would be the year 2074 before the wage gap could be closed at that rate of progress. All these figures show we are a long way from achieving any staged progress, or, if it is staged, it is so staged that we will all be dead when it happens.

I would like the parliamentary assistant to comment on whether he and the other members of the government have begun to change their views, so we can achieve the kind of goal at which we are aiming. According to the statement of the Minister responsible for Women's Issues, the goal is to achieve equality for women without bringing in mandatory equal pay for work of equal value. Last spring it may not have been as clear that this was not working, doing it on the present voluntary basis or doing it with a slightly revised set of criteria under the Employment Standards Act, as is proposed in the Bill 141 amendment the government brought in.

3:40 p.m.

I would like to draw to the government's attention, and to the attention of the parliamentary assistant in particular, the fact that there appears to be a form of what might be called false advertising in the bill. Let me read what the explanatory note says section 1 does:

"Under the re-enactment of part IX of the act, the application of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is extended, under clause 33(1)(b), to work in the same establishment that requires substantially equivalent or greater skill, effort and responsibility under substantially similar working conditions when the skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions are considered as a whole and not individually."

Members will notice that paragraph talks about the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. Then one turns over to section 1 of the bill, and there is no reference to equal pay for work of equal value in the wording there. It simply says that no employer "shall differentiate between his male and female employees." Then it goes on to say they must be doing work that has substantially the same skill, effort and responsibility and be performed under similar working conditions. That is still the old equal pay law with the slight modification that one can now consider a

composite of the four criteria, but it still must be substantially the same work.

I rather question the government bringing in a bill with an explanatory note that is misleading and appears to be trying to convince the members of the Legislature that this is a bill for equal pay for work of equal value. By accepting the New Democratic Party amendment, however, the government could make itself an honest body and make the bill actually do what it purports to do in the explanatory notes. We are giving the government the opportunity to do it.

I also wish to draw to the attention of the committee some statements by the federal government about the administration of its equal pay bill. An official from the federal government appeared before the standing committee that held public hearings on this bill last January. He came to explain how the bill was working in Ottawa.

One or two of his statements give a very good concept of what the government in Ottawa is trying to do. He said at the outset, "We are deeply committed to the equal value concept and we believe anything less than that will not effectively close the wage gap between men and women."

He went on to say: "The concept, of course, is not universally accepted. Western society in the past has believed, and unfortunately parts of it still do believe, that women should not be paid comparable wages because for various reasons they would not need or deserve the wages they should be earning. Of course Karl Marx puts it unequivocally for the other side, that workers should be paid each according to his need. I would suggest to you there is no place for a means test in the determination of pay. However, that in effect is what we have been doing for a long time directly or indirectly, individually and as a group, and frequently it has been justified on economic grounds.

"An inescapable fact is that women have been subsidizing the economy of the country for years and are being asked to continue to do so for the good of the state. Some of the arguments we hear that are based on economic grounds are strangely similar to those put forward by the opponents of the abolition of child labour. That was a catastrophe our economy managed to survive and I think it could survive equal value as well."

That is one of the things that is being brought up in this debate as a sort of red herring, that this proposal will cause great damage to the economy or that it will be unworkable.

Members may recall that back in 1978, the Ministry of Labour put on a conference on Equal

Pay/Equal Opportunity. One of the speakers there was Mike Skolnick, who at that time was assistant director of administration in the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. His final conclusion was that when you start to look at the costs and consider whether the proposal is workable, "It is unlikely there will be significant progress in the direction of equal pay for work of equal value without strong government action, including provision of adequate resources and possible legislation."

That was the advice the government got back in 1978, and ever since then it has simply been stalling, thinking of reasons for refusing to accept the advice that without strong government action we will not close the wage gap.

Yet I recall what was said by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues in his speech on October 20 when the equal pay motion was being debated, which he and all the government voted for. He stated that he would continue to give leadership in closing the wage gap, but this leadership has still left the public sector with a gap of about 24 points and the private sector with about 36. I hardly call that leadership.

The government now has the opportunity to show real leadership and to make this session memorable for some really ground-breaking legislation, legislation that would deal with a very serious problem in our society, namely, the inequality of women and the fact that they have been expected to subsidize employers for many years.

It is a straight question of justice. Is this government prepared to see that women are paid the same as people doing equivalent work, work of equal value, rather than to see us continue the inequities that have grown up in the labour market and rather than continue to give lip service to achieving justice and equality for women?

Will this government not change its view on this legislation, and let us get on with the other sections of the act, by adopting our amendment to section 1? It seems to me this is the way we should be going, and this is what I hope this session will bring forth. Perhaps we can get some indication from the parliamentary assistant whether there has been any change in the government's thinking on this question.

I will leave those points with him. I want him to tell me whether he has any indication from the Minister of Labour or the Minister responsible for Women's Issues concerning whether they will be participating in the debate at some stage and telling us why they are not pushing it or whether they have been convinced by the recent

statistics that we are not making staged progress; whether he will accept that the legislation is working in Quebec and in Ottawa; whether he has studied any of the awards I have mentioned and has a report on them, because they do show it is possible to compare dissimilar work; and whether he thinks women should continue to lose about \$6 billion in wages because of the continuation of this kind of discrimination.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden) for her comments on this matter.

As an introductory point, I might say it has been a very lengthy debate. If the members refer back to Hansard, they will find that the last speaker in the debate on June 13 is no longer with us; so the debate on Bill 141 has actually outlasted some members who have moved on to other responsibilities in other places. I am referring to the former member for Prescott-Russell, Mr. Boudria, who spoke on June 13.

Perhaps I can deal with one or two of the latter points made by the honourable member. At the outset, I want to agree with her that this has been a lengthy debate. We started debating the points in this bill in committee of the whole House on May 1 and continued on May 8, May 29, June 5, June 12 and June 13. I believe there has been a total of more than 14 hours of debate.

I want the member to know that I and the government share her concern that we proceed with the other clauses in this bill, the clauses that will improve both the adoption and the pregnancy leave clauses in the existing legislation, and that we proceed with this first section, which we believe does improve the situation of working women in the economy in Ontario.

While I certainly appreciate her thoughts as to how we might proceed with that, I suggest to her that there is a responsibility on all sides of the House to see that this bill proceeds. In the coming hours of debate, I wonder whether I might ask the member for Beaches-Woodbine to indicate to me how we might clear whatever logjam we seem to have developed here and get on with implementing the bill. I believe we are doing the working women of this province something of a disservice by denying them some of the very tangible improvements that could be made through the implementation of Bill 141.

On the matter of principle that she raises, I say as I said a number of times in the spring session while debating this bill, that the position as indicated by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues is the position of the govern-

ment and of all ministers who share in this responsibility. We, as a government, support phased progress towards the implementation of equal pay for work of equal value. That is our goal and we intend to proceed towards that goal in a very prudent manner, with due regard to the overwhelming responsibility that the Ontario Ministry of Labour has, inasmuch as we set the regulations and the laws for all employers in Ontario, save and except those few that fall under federal jurisdiction because of being public servants or federally chartered organizations.

We have the overwhelming responsibility to all the employers in the province in the private sector so that, as I have indicated before, we will continue in our progress in this area with due regard to the interests of all the parties involved.

The member mentioned that there was, as noted by Statistics Canada, a closing of the wage gap of approximately one per cent in the last year. We take some slight encouragement from that, although I agree with her that we want to do more and we intend to do more. I restate our conviction that the provisions of Bill 141, in bringing about the composite testing of roughly equivalent types of work, would see a further and greater closing of that wage gap in the coming year if we could get this bill on to the books.

I also point out, just by the by, that as an employer the Ontario government has done better than that. In the 1982-83 fiscal year, the wage gap for employees of the government of Ontario was closed by some 2.2 per cent. Again, that is not by any means the end result we are looking for, but it is a fairly significant advancement and well in excess of that in the rest of the economy. As an employer, I feel our government can be very proud of its record in this area.

With regard to the case load in Quebec, mentioned by the member, I will undertake some further research in this area. I want to share some information that we have with her, inasmuch as we have been in touch with the counsel for the Quebec human rights commission, Jocelyn Provost. We discussed with her, a number of the major cases that have been settled. I would like to go over them briefly, if I might, for the member's benefit, although she may have been talking about these same cases when she called Quebec.

Our information is that the cases before the Quebec human rights commission appear to have dealt only with situations where females were paid less than males for jobs determined to be of equal value according to the company's own job evaluation system. In other words, there has not been a particularly difficult test of the principle of

equal value in the Quebec jurisdiction. Furthermore—I am going to highlight a couple of the more major cases—it would appear overall that the numbers of workers involved and of the settlements achieved in Quebec have been relatively small.

The counsel for the commission referred us to three cases. The first is the Quebec North Shore Paper case that was dealt with in 1978, just a short period of months after the enactment of the bill in Quebec. In that case the company's job evaluation system for male and female jobs, assigned different wages to corresponding levels within the two categories. The company agreed, after the intervention of the human rights commission in that province, to merge the two systems and to assign wage rates accordingly. That resulted in a total retroactive payment of about \$26,000, and an annual increase in salary totalling \$16,830, for 24 women. I am not suggesting for a minute that \$16,000 a year spread over 24 employees is totally insignificant, but in terms of reshaping the economy of a whole province, I suggest it is certainly not what one would call an enormous settlement and it does not affect many workers.

In 1979, we saw the Val Cartier Industries case in which the company's job evaluation system for male and female jobs assigned different wages, but they were assigned to corresponding levels within the two categories of employment. In that case, the company agreed to merge its two systems for male and female employees and to assign a wage rate accordingly. I understand the upshot of that was a retroactive lump sum payment to each of the 203 employees of \$150. Again, \$150 is not that much of a settlement. While I am sure the women were very pleased to get it, I assume the real advance made was the recategorization of male and female employees, as opposed to the settlement the commission got, which is not going to change anyone's lifestyle or situation to any degree whatsoever.

4 p.m.

More recently, we had the Catelli Foods case in Quebec. Here again the company's job evaluation system was fixed on two different pay bases, two different base levels for male and female jobs with the same point evaluation. In that case, the company was fined and damages of \$224,000 for 24 female employees were filed through the human rights commission in the Quebec Superior Court. I understand at this time the company's appeal of that case is under way. I should ask my learned friend the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) to inform me of this,

but I assume that an appeal from the Superior Court would go to the Quebec Court of Appeal. That, if it goes through, will be by far the most significant settlement made of the cases we were informed of in Quebec, because we are talking just shy of \$10,000 per employee. I grant the member that if that award goes through the appeal, it is indeed significant and we would have no quarrel on that.

Overall, I hope the members would agree with me that some of the settlements have been small. We continue to question how many of them would actually have been adjudicated any differently if a Bill 141 type of law were in place in Quebec as opposed to the law it has. That, I guess, is one of the points we will continue to debate in consideration of this clause.

Very briefly, I want to reiterate that the government is convinced the bill it has introduced is significant.

With regard to the interest of the Minister of Labour and the Minister responsible for Women's Issues in this bill, I want to assure the member that I have met with both ministers on two occasions already this week to discuss the progress of the bill and where we stand on it. They, of course, have many duties outside of the chamber. I would not want the member to misinterpret my responsibility for the bill at this stage in the House to indicate any lack of interest or commitment on their part, because that simply is not the case.

I am very pleased that both ministers have included me in any and all of their discussions in this whole area of legislation and responsibility. I would hope the member would be satisfied with my continuing to shepherd it along as we have through the past number of months.

With those remarks, I would again ask all members in all parties to consider how we might be able to clear up this logjam to get this bill, with all of the advancements it makes for working women in Ontario, on the books, and clear the House for further legislation in other areas. I am sure, having had some six weeks of debate periodically on this bill, there are other areas of great interest to members that they would like to get to in the House.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, I listened very carefully to the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). Of course, I agree with him that there has been a lengthy debate on this bill. I agree that perhaps at this stage we should have come to a conclusion.

The conclusion is what an ordinary citizen would expect. After having accepted the prin-

ciple, and 82 members of this House voted for the principle of equal pay for work of equal value, after having had public hearings last January, we would think the members of the government benches would have accepted the principle and, therefore, would agree with us that the amendment proposed by my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie) responds exactly to that principle.

But what we are hearing is that despite the fact the government agrees with the principle, it is finding all kinds of excuses to make this bill ineffectual, and not to respond to the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. The arguments we are hearing are the arguments that we heard before and that we will be hearing for a long time.

We hear the economic argument, that it is too costly. We do not know how much it will cost. The Minister of Labour said last December that it would cost employers \$5 billion a year and the economy cannot afford that. The Deputy Premier, said it would cost \$2 billion a year and, of course, the economy could not afford that, especially at this time of recession, this time of economic crisis.

The fact is that the economic argument does not hold. If we look at the federal legislation and at the Quebec legislation, where equal pay for work of equal value has been introduced and is part of federal legislation and of legislation in Quebec, we know that no disaster has happened either federally or in Quebec. If we look at other jurisdictions in which the principle has been implemented and translated into law, we know that no disaster has happened.

If we look at the European Economic Community we know very well that, despite the reluctance of some members of the community, like England, the principle has been accepted, was translated into legislation in 1982 and is operating to the point where the community allows individuals or groups who feel discriminated against to go to court under the law, with the legal fees paid by the community.

If we look at Sweden, where the legislation was introduced in 1981, in three years' time the wage gap between male and female employees has been reduced to 10 per cent. In 1983, women in Sweden received 90 per cent of male wages, and no disaster has happened in Sweden; the economy of Sweden was not turned upside down. Actually, there was no mass layoff of women in Sweden; women's participation increased instead of decreasing, and therefore the economic effects were exactly the opposite of

what the critics had been forecasting for quite a while.

If we look at a jurisdiction that is quite similar to ours, Australia, where equal pay legislation was introduced in 1982, we see that the participation of women has increased to 37 per cent in two years from 30 per cent before the legislation and that the wages paid to women are now 76 per cent of men's wages. Nobody in Australia has noticed any major disruption of the economy because of equal pay legislation.

I do not want to be unduly long, because we have debated this bill ad nauseam; but I have to make it quite clear that the economic question is not the real reason the members of the government are opposed to this amendment. The real reason is a political one, and the political reason is that those who have power do not want to give it up. As Al Belak, who is a partner in Hare Associates, a Philadelphia-based consultant job evaluation agency said, "This is the real problem: it is a problem of power."

4:10 p.m.

As my colleague the member for Beaches-Woodbine said, it goes back to every change in our civilization. When we had slave labour, similar arguments were made that abolishing slave labour would upset the economy; but, of course, it did not happen. We know very well that it depends on the point of view from which one looks at the problem. A reactionary employer is interested in cheap labour; but a progressive employer who is concerned with the broader social issues connected with labour will understand that the economic progress of nations does not rest necessarily on backward legislation or on the exploitation of the weak in our society.

I remember the same arguments were made in Europe 25 years ago when the process of the unification of the common market was becoming a reality. All the conservatives and reactionaries in Europe used to say, "We cannot have wage parity among the nations in Europe because if we have wage parity the weaker nations in the south of Europe, such as Italy, Greece and Spain, could not compete with the more industrialized nations; therefore, their economies would collapse."

What happened was quite the opposite. When the common market was formed, the economies of Spain and Italy were forced into very heated competition with the more advanced economies of the north. They had to progress. In fact, they became amalgamated in the European economy. There was no disaster. Quite the opposite, there was very marked progress.

The arguments we are hearing revolve around the fact that some people cannot accept the concept that women must be treated the same as men. If the question is one of equal pay for work of equal value, it simply means we have to make our legislation and our regulations flexible enough to accommodate this changing world. If we want to treat women equally, then we have to adjust our legislation to the new social reality and not force the social reality to follow backward legislation because it is convenient to some groups that are reactionary and not open to the future.

The idea of equal pay for equal work was accepted many years ago in Ontario. I was not here at that time and many of my colleagues were not here; some of my colleagues on my left were not even born. At that time, the same arguments were made. It was said the economy needed wage earners who were in the labour market for reasons other than as primary wage earners in the family. Therefore differential wage treatment was totally justified. Women were not as necessary to the labour market as men because women were in the labour market for a more limited time than men, they were not the sole or major supporters of their families; therefore a wage differential was justified.

Today we have a totally different situation. In Ontario, we have an increasing number of women who are working. As a matter of fact, 56.4 per cent of Ontario women are in the work force. This means there were two million women in the work force in 1983. In today's society we know a very high number of these two million women are primary wage earners and therefore rely on their work to look after themselves and their families. Therefore, that argument does not hold any longer. If the economic argument does not hold, then what is the argument? Is it that some people object that it will be too difficult to adopt the legislation and it would become too complex and the bureaucracy would increase immensely?

We know the federal legislation that was instituted a few years ago produced, from 1979 until the end of 1983, only 63 complaints, which is not a big deal if we look at the large number of people employed by the federal government. We know very well that today we have an agreement mechanism in place in Ontario. What we have to do is make that mechanism adequate to the new reality. I do not think that is totally impossible.

What is necessary is some flexibility. What is necessary is the acceptance of a principle that, despite the opposition, will become the reality of

tomorrow in Ontario, as it has become the reality in many parts of the world. No fair-minded person can think that in future women will take second place in our society, that women will be treated differently only because of their sex and, therefore, their work will be remunerated differently from the work men do only because they are women.

In the minds of the members on the government benches, I think they feel this is a new reality that is taking place in our society and they cannot arrest it. If they know that, then why not make an effort and become part of the movement that is happening in the world to give women what is due to them?

I would like to remind government members that during the federal election the women's issue was very prominent in the campaign. I think most of us watched the debate when the New Democratic Party, as it has been doing for many years, proposed to the public of Canada the women's issue as one of the major issues of our times. We remember that the leader of the Liberal Party, who was then Prime Minister, and the leader of the Conservative Party, who is now Prime Minister, both agreed that equal pay for work of equal value was an issue to be addressed and, indeed, to be resolved.

If we think for a moment that perhaps it was the expediency of the electoral campaign that could have forced the leader of the Conservative Party to accept a position that was not a position of which he was very much convinced, I do not think that can be true, because this is an issue that will not go away. This is not a situation that bursts out at some point and then subsides as time goes by. It is a reality that is with us because women constitute a very relevant part of the work force in Ontario and they will not go away. They will fight for equality and, sooner or later, we have to address that issue.

4:20 p.m.

If the government refuses to accept this amendment it is only delaying a process that is inevitable. Government members are only postponing a solution that I know in their minds they are convinced will become the legislation of tomorrow. Sooner or later they will be forced to accept it because more than 50 per cent of our population are women, and 54 per cent of the women are in the labour force. They will not accept being treated as second-class citizens so that they get lower wages just because they are women.

I do not want to prolong the debate, but I want to make it quite clear that we are not, as the

member for Brantford said, prepared to set aside this big issue and go on with other business. We do not know what the other business is. In the spring session we sat here day after day and the government did not introduce any major legislation. In fact, it was by all means the dullest session of the Legislature since I was elected.

I do not know what other legislation the government will propose in this session. I suspect there will not be any major legislation because most of the ministers are interested in more personal concerns and have their minds addressed to other personal and party goals. To ask us to set aside this very important issue, which is a political issue but a fundamental issue, for some undefined or not yet defined other business is preposterous.

What we ask of the members of the government is to address this issue now and pass this amendment. If we pass this amendment, we can go on to other business with clear minds and consciences. I hope the government will have second thoughts because this is not a passing issue. History will judge them and, above all, the women of Ontario will judge them.

Mr. Lupusella: On a point of order, Mr. Chairman: May I ask the parliamentary assistant whether he has any questions to raise with the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) or if everything is agreed that must be included within the principle of the law?

The Deputy Chairman: Does the parliamentary assistant want to interject any words of wisdom?

Mr. Gillies: I thank the member for Dovercourt (Mr. Lupusella), who is always so accommodating in making sure I have every opportunity to raise points.

I wonder if I might make a suggestion. I may be a bit out on a limb because I have not talked to the House leaders about this. Is there any thought that if we were to stand this clause down and proceed with the rest of the bill, we might, as we see how the rest of the legislation unfolds, be able to make some progress? I just throw that out.

The Deputy Chairman: The limb is still there.

Mr. Nixon: We agree to that.

The Deputy Chairman: The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) would be amenable. What about the members of the third party?

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I am always interested in any suggestion the government

makes to move along its legislation. We will consult with our House leader about it.

Mr. Gillies: I thank the honourable member for that undertaking.

Briefly, in reply to the member for Downsview, I want to reiterate our genuine concern that this legislation go through.

I reject the suggestion that what we are doing with Bill 141 is in any way reactionary. I feel this is very progressive legislation and I am pleased, as I am sure the members are, that two prominent women members of the Progressive Conservative caucus are here to listen to the debate, the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and the former Provincial Secretary for Social Development, the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch).

I ask the members to consider, in the context of of this debate, which party in the—

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Chairman, on a point of privilege: Just to rectify the record, I did not say that the government is reactionary. I said that rejecting the concept of equal pay for work of equal value is akin to taking a reactionary position similar to that taken in the past by the people who opposed the abolition of slave labour.

Mr. Gillies: Okay, I take the point. As I recall, though, one of the very first pieces of legislation ever introduced in the parliament of Upper Canada, I believe in 1841, was for the abolition of slavery. I think we are well beyond that and I do not quite see the comparison.

I would ask the member to reflect on the fact that I believe our party has been at the forefront in this province in promoting women into positions of great prominence and influence. We have two very good examples right here on our front bench. I would ask the member to reflect as the debate unfolds that if people of the calibre of these two members see the wisdom of supporting the legislation we have proposed, there may indeed be a little more to it than he thinks.

I would ask members to consider that we are talking about staged progress, to which we have made reference on several occasions and to which we are committed in bringing about equal pay for work of equal value. While I can appreciate that we may differ concerning how we achieve this goal—the New Democratic Party has the approach outlined in its amendment and we have the approach outlined in the bill—I would ask members to reflect on whether or not the passage of this legislation is a step very much in the right direction, and also that the passage of this legislation then frees up the minister, me and

our officials to start laying the groundwork for the next stage. If we are going to keep the ball moving on something we all agree with in principle, then perhaps we should be moving towards it expeditiously.

Mr. Lupusella: Mr. Chairman, you are so indulgent in so many cases that I have great appreciation.

I would like to take the opportunity to respond to the invitation that was made by the parliamentary assistant that he is eager to move on the passage of this particular legislation. I understand the reason and I have no problem with it. The only problem we have is that we got stuck on this particular section because of the importance of the principle of the bill. As well as that, in view of the concept and framework of the principle that is enunciated in this section, there is an eagerness on the part of many members to get involved in the content of the debate.

For example, I am one member who would like to address the issue in that particular clause, and I am particularly concerned that if we move towards passage of the bill without really considering the substance of the bill per se, which is equal pay for work of equal value, maybe we will diffuse the issue, even though I understand the good intentions and the goodwill of the parliamentary assistant.

4:30 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a few minutes on this bill. I have participated on other occasions—on second reading, in the committee of the whole House debate in December last year and again in June this year.

I recognize, as the parliamentary assistant has indicated, that the bill has been debated extensively during that period of time. I do not want to enter into an argument about whether or not the government should have had more and other legislation to proceed with or whether this has simply been used by the government to fill up the gap while it marked time and contemplated the future which will now unfold for it. We have debated it extensively. It is controversial legislation and, for practical purposes, there has been no substantial progress made in connection with the legislation.

I want to try to engage the parliamentary assistant in a summary or a summarization of what I believe to be the arguments that have been made pro and con with respect to the concept of equal pay for work or equal value and also with respect to the specific provisions within the bill.

The argument always takes any number of courses. I think the one which has come through

more and more as the principal position of the government is the question of what is referred to as staged progress, but what I refer to as the false process of gradualism in a matter which does not lend itself to the kind of gradual approach the government seems to advocate. I think the reason that it does not lend itself to gradualism, despite what the government may state, has been put on a number of occasions in the House. I would like to try, if I can, to summarize those considerations.

The government has stated that it has a long and honourable tradition of promoting the rights of working women. On many occasions they have gone on to point out the extent to which the number of women in the provincial public service has increased in employment groups where they were formerly underrepresented. As the parliamentary assistant has indicated, the latest report of the women crown employees office reports that the wage gap in that public sector has narrowed by 2.2 per cent in the last year to some 24.2 per cent. This is used as a support for the position of the government that staged progress is occurring and that gradually the inequity of the discrimination against women in the work place will be eliminated.

The next argument the government makes under this question of staged progress is that equal pay for work of equal value is a concept that must evolve and be accepted gradually, and that both the notion and the enforcement of it through legal sanctions must be approached through gradual but steady efforts. A corollary of that argument is that equal value should not be adopted without due consideration of the effects this can have on the economy of the jurisdiction of the province.

I would ask the parliamentary assistant whether I have fairly stated the position of the government with respect to that argument of staged progress and whether the argument can stand in the face of the following contra argument, that if we look closely at the lower levels of the government service, lower levels with respect to the remuneration being received by women in the government service at the lower levels of opportunity, the affirmative action of the government is not working.

The extent to which it is working is because of the attrition of the public service that has taken place under the policy of restraint, which has been an issue which was initiated by the government some half dozen years ago in relation to the duties performed by the public service. I think it is fair to say that if one analyses occupational categories of male and female

employees at Queen's Park at those levels, one will find there has been little change, and change in at least one of the categories has been for the worse.

The law we are asking for, the embodiment in legislation of the principle we are asking for, is required because, unless it is in the law, that kind of progress will be minor and stalemated as it attempts to make progress through the government service.

A second contra argument I would like to put to the parliamentary assistant is that the province has significant obligations under convention 100 of the International Labour Organization, which Canada ratified in 1972 and which Ontario and the other jurisdictions in the federal state are required to honour. We in Ontario have not as yet met our responsibilities under that convention, which sets out the goals and objectives for equal remuneration for work of equal value for men and women workers.

In a very real sense we are in default in our participation with the government of Canada of the ratification of an international convention that holds out to the world that we accept the goals and objectives we must pursue urgently and as a matter of immediate concern. Instead of that, the Minister responsible for Women's Issues simply concentrates his attention on what I suppose will be remembered for ever in the concept of this debate, namely, that of staged progress.

We say that if we have to wait, as we have waited for a long time, for legislative enactment to give effect to the principles, it will be well into the next century before we have achieved the goal of equal pay for work of equal value. Gradualism cannot afford the luxury of waiting that long.

Despite the equal pay laws we have had on the Ontario statute books for some time, according to the accepted figures, the wage gap between men and women currently runs at about 40 per cent and is not changing in any significant way. Most of that statistic is a basic residual statistic from many comparisons. Without effective equal pay for work of equal value legislation, that differential is not going to change to any substantial extent. Indeed, I would venture to say people standing here 100 years from now might very well be looking at a differential not very much different from the 40 per cent differential that has become part of the rhetoric and polemic of this debate.

4:40 p.m.

It does seem to me that one must take into account the Ontario Human Rights Code and section 15 of the charter, which will come into effect on April 1, 1985. By enactment of our own Human Rights Code in Ontario and by our obligation to respect section 15 of the charter, we have created a situation where this assembly has recognized that staged progress is not adequate and that gradualism is not a sufficient answer to the questions that are raised by the principle of equal pay for work of equal value.

I mentioned on another occasion in the course of this debate that we have to break through the concept that women's work, while essential, is subordinate, but that men's work, while essential, is superior. I do not intend to labour that argument, but the parliamentary assistant may recall I did make that argument in favour of urging on the government the need to move immediately to upgrade, across the board, salaries in those areas where the majority of workers are women. This is the so-called ghetto employment in which many women are lost and in which the work is treated as essential to society but for some reason or other, under the test of remuneration, is considered to be subordinate to the kind of work men do.

That is the principal argument, pro and con, the government has put to support its bill. We have had other arguments. We have looked at what other jurisdictions have done. We have talked at considerable length about the federal human rights legislation, the commission and the responsibility of that commission. On our side, we tried to urge the government to move in that direction. On the other side, the government backpedalled and indicated that for practical purposes that kind of legislation is not of any great importance and that very few people have been affected by it. Those arguments, pro and con, are on the record of Hansard.

Then we had the continual corollary argument with respect to gradualism or staged progress, that for practical purposes legislation is not really the answer. The changes the parliamentary assistant is supporting in this bill are simply a minor or gradual extension of what exists at present in the legislation. We have had that debate about the marginal semantic changes that are made.

The parliamentary assistant recognizes, as does everybody, that this may extend the net somewhat to cover perhaps another five per cent or 10 per cent of the differential that exists between men and women in the remuneration they receive. I do not think he or I have the

capacity to decide the degree in which this legislation will ameliorate the discrimination that does exist, but he and I are in agreement that under the government's philosophy, it will be only a marginal change, not a significant change.

It will be significant to those who have the benefit of the legislation, of course, but in relation to those who will not benefit by it because the government is too timid to introduce the principle into the bill, a variation of only five per cent to 10 per cent can be expected with respect to the discrimination that does exist.

I want to speak very briefly to the question of what this discrimination is. I have only two points to make about it. The Supreme Court of Canada, in one of the cases that came before it, stated very clearly that if there is discrimination in society in Ontario in areas that are under the jurisdiction of this Legislative Assembly and they are not protected by legislation, they are not protected anywhere. There is not a common law protection of discrimination with respect to wage differentials.

If we are in agreement that there is discrimination in the work place between the remuneration of men and women, we here are the ones who bear the responsibility for passing the legislation to eliminate that discrimination. There is no other recourse except in this assembly. I believe it to be a principle adhered to by every party in this assembly that discrimination is unacceptable in Ontario society, in the society we all talk about in such glowing terms when it suits our individual purposes to do so; and to the extent that discrimination exists, the responsibility for it lies in this assembly.

An argument of gradualism, an argument that legislation is not the answer or an argument that looks to other jurisdictions, and sees that they are having problems too, does not relieve us in this assembly from the obligation to take the steps that are required.

I have tried to get some technical understanding of the term "discrimination" which would be meaningful to me. I do not pretend to be an expert in the areas of the sophistication of statistical research, but in this particular sense of discrimination, I think again the parliamentary assistant and I can agree without pretending that either one of us is an expert in the refined matters of determining the areas of discrimination.

Let me put this on the record. The differential that remains between male and female earnings after all the following variables have been accounted for is the discrimination to which I refer. The variables that have to be accounted for

are education, age, occupation, industry, training, marital status and weeks and hours worked.

If one takes all those differentials into account in the most sophisticated way in which one can possibly use them to account for them and to discount them, or as is said in the jargon of the time, to decompose them, the net differential remaining is the discrimination.

4:50 p.m.

So far as I can tell, if one looks at certain of the reports that have been made recently for the federal Department of Labour, they would indicate a widespread range of discrimination which may all be sifted out into what is popularly known as the 40 per cent gap.

If one takes job income by education and by gender, one will find that the differential between women and men, depending on the degree of education, runs somewhat as follows. Where there is no high school education, the mean ratio is about 49 per cent. Where there is some high school education, the mean ratio is about 54 per cent. Where the persons being compared are high school graduates, the mean ratio is about 58 per cent. Where there is technical education involved, it is about 70 per cent. Where there is some university education involved, it is about 73 per cent. Where university degrees are involved, it is about 65 per cent. There are also varying ratios depending upon the number of years of education.

Out of all that, depending upon where one happens to be in the scale of the number of years of education, when we take into account work experience, seniority, hours worked and any number of other factors I have spoken about, then at different ages, at different levels of education and at different levels of work experience, we will find that there is not just 40 per cent, but a substantial range of differentials running from somewhere near 60 per cent to perhaps somewhere near 23 per cent in some of the upper levels. It is of little help to an individual person to use the global figure of about 40 per cent without trying to classify that person within the appropriate comparable scale of earnings.

It seems to me that for us to say that legislation is not the answer, and that this gradual, staged progress of a minor change in existing legislation is sufficient for our purposes, negates the very argument about equality in Ontario to which we all refer.

The other argument that has been made on both sides of the question is the difficulty of implementation. Let us all agree that it will be difficult to implement. The ultimate decisions

are going to have to be made either by the Legislature and the processes established by the Legislature, through recourse to the courts, as has been the case in certain of the incidents the parliamentary assistant referred to in Quebec, or through the process of collective bargaining. Everywhere in the free world people are trying, by trial and error, to develop the new skills required to lead to the ability to make a comparison between dissimilar jobs, which is required to assert the proposition of equality between men and women in the work place. I think we can agree on all those things.

However, when it all comes out, I am afraid it means that this party believes the principle must be enshrined in the legislation and that the details of working it out, and the processes by which people can have recourse to resolve the discrimination, must be left to the mechanisms that are available if we place it in legislation and unavailable if it is not in legislation. From our point of view, we can say to the government that we question very much whether it will ever accept that it is possible to compare dissimilar jobs.

I want to say to the parliamentary assistant that if I have to reduce all the arguments to some residual question, that question is: Does he really believe it is the responsibility of government to provide the processes so that over time, through collective bargaining, through whatever tribunals this assembly wishes to establish that have the authority to do it, or through the court system, we accept the proposition that it is possible in a humane society to develop comparisons between dissimilar jobs to establish the wages that are paid as being equal for men and women? I doubt it.

A lot of words have been spoken and much has been said, but I do not think the Conservative Party, the Conservative government or this legislation, reflects an acceptance of that principle. It may have taken me a long time in the extensive course of these debates to ask myself: "Why the argument about gradualism? Why the argument about the problems? Why the vote in the assembly," whenever it took place, "when the members opposite all stood in their places and agreed on something called the principle? Why all the grandstanding about the particular provisions of the bill unless they accept the principle that it is possible to compare dissimilar jobs?"

I suppose this is what I want to ask the parliamentary assistant. From the arguments he has put before us and the arguments the government has used in other places with respect

to this bill, I do not for one moment believe it has the courage, the will or the determination to remedy the discrimination that is in society, which cannot be changed by a gradual process in any way, because the parliamentary assistant, representing the government, will not bring in the legislation that will enshrine the principle. It is not difficult to understand that unless he brings in that legislation, no one in this province has any recourse against the discrimination that exists in the work place.

I would go further. Is he really saying to us, behind all the words, that there is no discrimination in the differentials between men and women in the wages they receive in the work place because their jobs are not comparable? Or perhaps he is trying to have it both ways, believing that somewhere there is a gradual process and that perhaps in the year 1990 or 2000 some government will say: "Now is the time to make the further stage in the progress. We will say those magic words, 'Equal pay for work of equal value.'" Yes, we have now reached the fine plateau on which dissimilar jobs can be compared."

I do not know what the answer to that question is. I am suspicious of the government and I believe that, for practical purposes, it does not think it is possible to make that comparison.

I could go on at considerably greater length about the problems in the bill. It is sufficient to say that in York region a report was issued quite recently and was reported in the press. York region is not very far from Metropolitan Toronto. The report, by the region's children's services co-ordinating and advisory group, states, "The average income for women in the region was \$9,118, less than 50 per cent of the \$21,347 average for the region's males." It certainly is less than 50 per cent; on my calculator it is 42.7 per cent.

5 p.m.

The discrimination is real, the commitment of the government is suspect and the language that has been used is, in my view, simply to hide from the assembly and from the people of Ontario under a barrage of words the fact that the government does not accept the principle because it does not think it is workable.

We over here accept the principle. We believe it is workable, and we believe it must be made to work by skilled persons directing their attention to that question. We do not need a kind of negative scientific approach to the problem. We need a commitment of will to a positive solution of the problems related to comparisons. We

believe it is possible to work out those comparisons and to develop those concepts, but they will never be developed as long as it is possible for the government to put forward minor changes in legislation which has been on the books for many, many years, and broaden the net on equal pay for equal work, which is substantially what it is asking us to do.

We have little patience with the argument that it will disrupt the economy. The disruption to the economy by accepting this principle, and getting on with the job of doing it, will not in any way compare with the immense disruption to the economy of this province that has taken place through the so-called high-technology revolution and the processes of automation.

The disruption in the work place that has taken place in this province in the last half dozen years would make any disruption caused by equal pay for work of equal value simply pale into insignificance; for example, the way in which business has treated its employees in this province and the way in which this government has failed, by any legislative fiat, to protect the people from the results of that dislocation.

A chamber of commerce argument about the disruption this will cause does not find favour here. Many other arguments can be put, but time does not permit us to do so. Perhaps we will be able to discuss this matter on another occasion.

This is not the first time a bill has been brought before us dealing with two or three important matters mixed up with a principle of universal importance, and we are told if we do not give way on the basic, fundamental and broader principle, we will not get the minor ameliorative and important changes contained in other portions of the bill.

We have been through this a number of times. The government should never have mixed up these three matters in the bill. The Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) never bothers about that. We get half a dozen amendments to the Highway Traffic Act every year in this assembly. Perhaps the government should have introduced a bill dealing only with the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and then introduced a bill containing the other two necessary, beneficial and long overdue amendments. If that is what the minister is talking about, it may well be that the House leader of the New Democratic Party will take that into consideration.

Mr. Haggerty: May I have the attention of the Chairman and the parliamentary assistant?

Mr. Chairman, I want to address myself to An Act to amend the Employment Standards Act and particularly to section 33, equal pay. I, perhaps like other members, have difficulty following the intent of the legislation as I look at the explanatory notes. Section 33 says:

"No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall differentiate between his male and female employees by paying a female employee wages that are less than wages paid to a male employee, or vice versa, for substantially the same kind of work performed in the same establishment where the work requires,

"(a) substantially the same skill, effort and responsibility and the work is performed under similar working conditions."

In the explanatory notes, it says: "The application of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value is extended, under clause 33(1)(b), to work in the same establishment that requires substantially equivalent or greater skill, effort and responsibility under substantially similar working conditions when the skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions are considered as a whole and not individually." I think this is where the minister is going to run into some severe difficulties in applying the intent of the act.

If I can interpret between the lines, it means job classes. Perhaps the minister is going to have to develop hypothetical point-system criteria based upon knowledge, skills, mental demands, accountability and working conditions. I am afraid he is going to have difficulty in trying to bring out equal pay for comparable work if he is going to deal with job classes. He is going to spend a lot of time in arbitration in this area.

I am asking the parliamentary assistant for some clarification on the "measurement of earnings by quantity and quality of production" in clause 33(3)(c), which I presume means piecework. That alone is going to cause severe difficulties in understanding the intent of the bill. The minute we bring in quantity and quality of products, it is going to open the door for further disputes in arbitration or in the interpretation of the intent of the legislation.

We should have some concrete definition of the procedures for appeals. We may have the employment standards referees to review the different appeals that will be heard, but the government should have a defined time limit by which the decision of an appeals hearing board should be brought down. It should be two weeks or 21 days. That should be defined in the bill.

There are going to be many difficulties in this area of interpretation of the intent of the bill. It is based on a lot of hypothetical viewpoints that may be considered by the referees or by the minister himself because it is not clear in the equal pay for comparable work legislation. The minister should be taking a hard look in this area.

We in the Liberal Party have supported the bill in principle, but I still think the government is going to need to provide some further clarification under this section of the bill.

As the member for Riverdale has indicated, perhaps we should have had just one piece of legislation dealing with this proposed legislation of equal pay for equal work. I question that we are not dealing with an individual but with job classes that may take a long time to interpret under the act and may require long periods of appeals. If we are going to have equal pay for equal work, it should deal with individuals in comparable jobs.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, I rise once again in the debate on Bill 141 with maybe not the anger I did the last time, but I still cannot understand the government's approach in terms of the necessity of equal pay for work of equal value.

It struck me during the recent federal election campaign that if there was one position the leaders of all three parties were attempting to set out and set the voters straight on, it was their support for equal pay for work of equal value. That is certainly not what we get with the position the government has taken substantially here.

5:10 p.m.

Another thing that bothers me constantly is that it does not seem to matter whether it is pensioners—we had a debate in the House here that was blocked by the government members just the other night, dealing with early retirement—or the equality issue for women we are debating here now. It seems to me that justice, equality and necessity—and I submit that the necessity for this legislation is growing more obvious by the day—are all denied, usually on the basis of cost. Certainly that is always one of the major arguments we get from this government.

One of the things they tell us is, "We will move." They plan ways to deal with the delays and the problems. That is a bit of a joke. When one looks at what has happened in terms of the equality issue for women or at some of these other debates, the argument over pensions, for example—I do not know how long the debate in this House has been going on over approval of pensions, but I do know some very simple

changes were suggested back in 1979, and a number of times since, and we got absolutely nowhere with them.

I think my colleague referred to the convention of the International Labour Organization. I know that is a point I tried to make in the earlier debate on this. I quoted a former colleague of mine, Ted Bounsall, the former member for Windsor-Sandwich, when he moved Bill 3 in the House in 1979. He said the idea of equal pay for work of equal value is not a new one.

It was first passed, or carried some stature in the world, in 1971 by the International Labour Organization convention 100 and was ratified at that time by 83 countries. This convention was ratified in Canada in 1972 when it received approval in principle from all provinces, including Ontario. Yet, to date, Ontario has done nothing to implement that commitment. There was even an internal ministry report advocating equal pay for work of equal value some years ago. That would have been about 1977. At the time, it was rejected by ministry officials.

I guess when we talk about progress we are talking about one step forward, one step backward progress. I reject the arguments we have that the way to do this is a slow, planned, staged approach, because it is not working at all. It seems to me it is always arguments about such things as equality for women, the need for pensions or the need for workers to keep up with costs, public sector or private, which resulted in the controls legislation in this province, that bring us the arguments that "We cannot afford it" or "We have to slow down."

I wish that same pattern applied when we took a look occasionally at profits, at doctors' salaries, or in 1983 at the 30 per cent increase in salaries for senior management incomes in the province. To me, that says there is a bit of a double standard and some substantial increases and equality are a little more for some people who already have them than for others.

The other thing that bothers me in this legislation is that this government is an expert in the art of whipsawing the opposition in this House. I give them credit for it. I do not know how many times in the nine short years I have been in this House I have seen them bring in a bill—I find it interesting that it is usually labour legislation this happens with—that has one or two things they know labour wants or about which they know a campaign has been developed by opposition parties or the trade union movement. They always tie it with something they want or, if you like, a lesser improvement in what we are

trying to do. That is exactly what we have with this legislation.

The government is hard put to find one or two supporters of this bill. When we talked to the women's coalition in this province, they said, to a person and to an organization: "Reject this legislation. We have been had too many times." Equal pay for work of equal value is the key to real progress for women. It is not in this bill and the government is playing games with us. Sure, they want the improvements contained in the maternity and adoption leave provisions, and this government knows full that if they brought in a bill with those provisions, which make sense and which everybody wants, they would have it through this House in a matter of days or even hours, if we could do it.

I say the government is being fundamentally dishonest in the way it is dealing with improvements for workers in this province, because it is tying the sugar-coated pills together with the decision that, once again, it is not going to move in any substantive way in terms of equality for women in the work place. I suppose it is good tactics for the Conservative Party not to move too fast, to use this kind of approach in dealing with some individual rights for workers or on labour issues. But I find it a little bit sickening.

When we talked to various coalition members about this bill, we simply asked, "What do you want?" We will make the final decision in our own caucus, but we certainly were listening to them. We asked what they wanted in terms of this legislation, because there are a couple of good things in it. There is no doubt in my mind whatsoever that if this legislation does not go through, the government will try to label us with stopping the two little sugar-coated pills from being there.

Personally, I do not care if that is the kind of tactic the government wants to use, but when we put that to the coalition members they told us very clearly the issue on which to make the fight is equal pay for work of equal value. "Do not get sucked into buying the proverbial pig in a poke," they said. That is why we have been as tough as we have on this particular legislation.

I am not sure what my caucus will say to the minister's suggestion that we stand down this clause and go on with the rest of the bill. I have no real difficulty with something like that, but we will have to discuss it in caucus. However, we would solve the problem much faster and more forthrightly if this government brought in a bill dealing with the two things here that are of some

value to working people and not try to use them to hide the fact that it is doing absolutely nothing.

Mr. Haggerty: I do not see a quorum.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) has brought to our attention that he fails to see a quorum.

Mr. Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

5:22 p.m.

Clerk of the House: There is a quorum present, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Chairman: There being a quorum, I call on the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie).

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Chairman, it is too bad that a quorum call on a bill as important as Bill 141, and the amendment on equal pay for work of equal value, had to interfere with all the campaigning that was going on.

Mr. Havrot: Where were your members? You did not have enough members. It is your responsibility. You have only six with you.

Mr. Laughren: It is your responsibility to keep a quorum, not ours.

Mr. Chairman: Order. The member for Hamilton East will continue with his comments.

Mr. Mackenzie: It sounds to me as though somebody is not willing to accept their responsibility as the government of Ontario.

Mr. Havrot: We are willing to accept our responsibility. Where is yours? You are not accepting any responsibility. How many do you have here now? It makes no difference. You are getting paid the same as we are. What makes you so special that you can leave and expect us to sit here and listen to you?

Mr. Chairman: The member for Hamilton East is proceeding.

Mr. Havrot: East or west?

Mr. Mackenzie: We have them both; it does not matter. We are going to keep them both, too.

An hon member: You want to bet?

Mr. Mackenzie: No problem at all. A little bit of even money there, if you want.

I think it might be useful briefly to go over again the amendment that is before this House dealing with equal pay for work of equal value, simply because, if I recall correctly from some of the previous debate a few months back, at one stage the parliamentary assistant tried to make the argument that the bill is really doing most of what is here in our amendment.

If that is the case, I suggest to him it is long overdue for this Conservative government in

Ontario to go all the way and do what I thought their federal leader said they were going to do and what I think almost every women's group in Ontario wants them to do, namely, bring in real equal pay for work of equal value, with all the problems that may be there initially in setting up the procedures.

The amendment we have moved says:

"33(1) No employer or person acting on behalf of an employer shall establish or maintain any difference in wages paid to a male and to a female employee employed in the same establishment who are performing work of equal value unless the difference is based on seniority or quantity of production." What is really wrong with that part of the amendment?

"(2) An employment standards officer may assess the value of work performed for the purposes of subsection (1) and, where the officer finds that an employer has failed to comply with subsection (1), the officer may determine the amount of money owing to an employee because of the noncompliance, including any expenses incurred by the employee in enforcing subsection (1), and the amount shall be deemed to be unpaid wages."

This is not a heck of a lot different from some of the procedures we now have in cases that go to an employment standards officer. What is really wrong with that section of the amendment?

"(3) In assessing the value of work performed by employees employed in the same establishment, the criterion to be applied is the composite of the skill, effort and responsibility required in the performance of the work and the conditions under which the work is performed." It may take a little initiative, but we seem to be doing it under the federal legislation. I ask the parliamentary assistant, what is wrong with that section of the amendment?

"(4) Separate establishments established or maintained by an employer solely or principally for the purpose of establishing or maintaining differences in wages between male and female employees shall be deemed for the purposes of this part to be a single establishment." I cannot understand what one can really argue about on that section of the amendment.

Pay not to be reduced: "(5) No employer shall reduce the rate of pay of an employee in order to comply with subsection (1)." If that was not there, that section would be used to reduce men's wages to women's wages, where we now have the differences we are trying to rectify by this legislation.

Employer not to be requested to contravene: "(6) No organization of employers or employees or its agents shall cause or attempt to cause an employer to agree to or pay to his or her employees wages that are in contravention of subsection (1)." What can the parliamentary assistant and the government of Ontario possibly disagree with in that section of this amendment?

"(7) A complaint that an employer contravenes this section may be made by an employee, a class of employees employed in the same establishment or an employees' organization." We have that right for almost every other complaint that is made. Is there something wrong with this section of the amendment that has been moved in this House?

"(8) An employer, employee or class of employees that is aggrieved by a decision or order made by an employment standards officer under this part or section 47 may, within a period of 15 days after the date of delivery, service or notice of the decision or order, or such longer period as the director may for special reasons allow, apply for a review of the decision or order by way of a hearing before a referee and subsections 50(2) to (7) apply to the review, with necessary modifications, except that the referee has the power to make an order under section 47 in addition to the powers conferred by section 50."

Do we or do we not want to have appeal rights? We seem to allow it in most legislation. I cannot understand why there should be disagreement by the parliamentary assistant and the government with that section.

5:30 p.m.

"(9) The minister shall table a report annually in the Legislature on the progress of compliance with this part and the annual reports shall be referred to a standing or special committee of the Legislature every three years."

I happen to think that is important. It is important for some of the very arguments I was making earlier. The record of the government in its staged approach has not been very good. Whether it is this legislation or other kinds of legislation that fall in the same category—and I use pensions as the referral—we have tried to get even modest improvements year after year after year with no success, with no movement at all even in some of the simplest suggestions that have been made.

Even with this section I think it behooves this House to be able to review the progress we are making and see whether it is good enough, whether something else is needed, or maybe even

whether we are wrong in the approach. I do not think so. Most of the groups we have talked to do not think so because they are totally cheesed off with the lack of any progress up until now and with the approach we have taken up until now, just as they are cheesed off with the suggestion in Bill 141.

As I said, it was very clear in talking to the various groups that yes, the two points that were of some use were useful, but they were not buying the stall—and that is what it is, as far as I am concerned—that the ministry was putting forward. I cannot for the life of me understand why that should be so difficult for this government to accept.

The year 1985 marks the end of the United Nations Decade for Women. In this province, at least after a decade of talking about economic equality, we have yet to see any real results. One has to look hard to give us the few very modest exceptions we get.

In Ontario 56.4 per cent of women work—that was two million women in the labour force in 1983—and they are earning less than 64 cents for each dollar that the average man earns. This is not something to be very proud of.

In 1981 more than 77 per cent of working women earned less than \$15,000; only two per cent earned more than \$30,000. The evidence is clear that they are trapped in the low-paying job ghettos. That is not new; we have known that for some time. But where is the progress in this area as well?

While 10.3 per cent of all families are classified as low income, 36 per cent of those with a female head are classified as low income. A recent study by the National Anti-Poverty Organization found in 1983 that 50.8 per cent of all Canadian families led by females under 65 were living below the poverty line.

The battle for economic equality simply has to be centred on two issues: equal pay for work of equal value and mandatory affirmative action programs. The government is kidding itself if it thinks it is going to tackle it in any meaningful way with anything less than that.

This government has studied, debated and restudied for a long time. I have quoted a few of the remarks from the 1979 debate by my colleague Ted Bounsall on Bill 3, equal value legislation. Last fall members of all parties in this House even voted on the motion of the former member for Hamilton Centre in favour of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value. But when it comes to putting that principle into

effect through an amendment to the Employment Standards Act, this government reverses itself.

Does the parliamentary assistant wonder why we are as cynical as we are with what he is telling us, with what he says he is trying to do in this bill, which we know and the various women's groups know is not going to do it? How many more times do we have to have this kind of debate before we get some action in this House that means something?

In the past summer 12 classified ad solicitors employed by the Toronto Star, all women, were forced, as the parliamentary assistant may or may not know, to file a complaint under the Human Rights Code claiming that their employer violated the code by paying them less than another group of employees, mostly men, who performed work of equal value. The women were paid between \$5,400 and \$10,400 less per year than classified ad sales persons with the same experience; yet the two job descriptions indicate similar requirements for the two jobs in the areas of skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions.

Why do we have to go to the Human Rights Commission in that kind of an appeal? Once again, how many more times is that going to happen before the Tories start listening to the women of Ontario?

Wages for women still reflect the assumption that women work as second-income earners; their wages certainly reflect that. The reality, and certainly it is true with most people to whom I have talked in my riding, is that women work because they have to. The jobs that traditionally employ women—and I am not sure where we are going with these jobs in the future, which is something else that worries me—clerical, sales, service and health care, are amongst the lowest paid jobs there are.

Legislation that would implement equal pay for work of equal value would certainly help to redress some of these inequities. We know, and I always wonder—forgive my cynicism once again—that business has traditionally been opposed, whether it is the chamber of trade or various business organizations, to equal pay for work of equal value on the grounds that it is too expensive and that one cannot compare dissimilar jobs.

It is surprising how often their arguments are the same arguments we get from the Conservative members across the floor. Does that mean that members opposite are dancing to their tune or that these groups are in their pocket? I do not know which. We get that thrown at us occasion-

ally when we try to deal with labour issues and support positions that are taken by the trade union movement.

I think it is equally valid to throw it back at the Conservative members because they are almost in lockstep with most of the major business organizations in this province in that kind of an argument. As I can recall from trade union experience, those were the same kinds of groups that have opposed almost every single advance we have made in labour legislation and the rights of workers and the rights to decent contracts. I am not at all surprised that this is where the opposition jells and where the opposition comes from.

But I keep asking myself, when a principle that is so important here and which I think would open up improvements, advancements and even the economy of the province rather than slowing it down, something that brings some additional improvement and effect with respect to the ability of ordinary people to earn a share of the income in this province and as a result have the earning capacity to go out and buy, when something such as equal pay for work value is a basic right, why for once does that not carry as much weight as the arguments in the business community that somehow or other we cannot make this move because it is a little bit expensive or we cannot compare the jobs?

For the life of me, I have never been able to understand how the government can be so single-minded in its approach. I have said many times, and I am convinced it is true, that we may have some specific positions, some ideology that we stand by in this particular party, but I doubt very much that we have got the tunnel vision I often see across the floor.

It seems to me that this issue is so fundamental and so important to any possibility of equality for women in the work place that we cannot have—I was going to say the half-measure, but it is not a half-measure—the non-measure the government has proposed in Bill 141. It is no longer good enough to try to offer us a couple of little goodies so that we may let the bill go through.

Even if it does mean some flak in an election campaign, I support the position that was very clearly taken by the coalition, which included people right up to business and professional women in this province, that this government bill is not good enough and does not deal with the substantive and important issue, the fundamental issue, and we should not be conned once again that it is a proper position.

5:40 p.m.

That is why I feel, and feel very strongly, that the government's bill is not good enough, that we should not buy it, that this House should not buy it, and that is why the debate is still going on and has gone on as long as it has. If, I say it once again, the parliamentary assistant can get through to the Minister responsible for Women's Issues or to the Minister of Labour, who have been noticeably absent for most of this debate, with a suggestion that they bring in quickly a bill that deals with the two small but useful improvements in terms of working women in Ontario, we will give it the fastest approval they have ever seen.

That will show the good faith of the parliamentary assistant, but to try with the offer of those two tidbits to tie us into a position that does nothing on the basic issue is a very dishonest approach and not one I am personally willing to buy. I hope he will ask us to stand down not only this particular amendment but also the bill and bring in a new bill that does deal with those two points. As I say, the government will then have our support very rapidly and the bill could be through this House well before the Christmas recess.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Chairman, I want to make some comments on some of the statements the parliamentary assistant made, particularly in regard to the Quebec situation.

I do not know whether he has seen the remarks of the judge in the Catelli case when it came before the sessions court in Quebec. According to a report of February 29, 1984, in the *Globe and Mail*, the judge said, "Paying women factory workers less than men doing the same job is absurd." He went on to say, "Paying six women workers less money than their male co-workers for different work of equal value is unfair and absurd."

The judge was well aware that he was dealing with a case of equivalent work, rather than identical work, but he still considered it a violation of the rights of women under the Quebec Charter of Rights; it was a discriminatory action to pay the women less than the men for the kind of work they were both doing, which was somewhat dissimilar.

As far as the other cases go, I think there are still enough cases that have been dealt with by Quebec under the equivalent law to indicate that it is working. Even though there are small sums involved, the principle has been established in the nine cases I mentioned. Dissimilar work should be compared, and it is discrimination if

they are paid different rates for work of equivalent value.

The state of Washington had an interesting case. Judge Tanner ruled that it was discrimination to pay the state employees different amounts in a case of work of equal value. Some of the statements Judge Tanner brought forth are worth listening to. He said he found overwhelming evidence that the state of Washington had illegally maintained a compensation system that discriminated on the basis of sex.

Going beyond the notion of equal pay for equal work, which is explicitly required by a 1963 statute, Judge Tanner ordered the state government to pay women at a rate reflecting "the full evaluated work" of their jobs. "The state," he said, "had already conducted its own job evaluation studies measuring the levels of skill, effort and responsibility required for various jobs." He found that there was a 20 per cent disparity in salary between predominantly male and predominantly female jobs having the same intrinsic value, or "comparable work." The judge stressed that he was not making a subjective assessment but was relying on the state's own evaluations.

This judgement provided that nearly 15,000 women working in the state would receive pay increases amounting to several million dollars. The judgement is being appealed, but certainly it was an indication that there is thinking in the United States on the issue of comparable work. It would result in a 31 per cent pay increase overall for the 15,000 women. The estimate is that it would cost \$7 million to bring them up to a level equivalent to that paid to male workers.

I also want to draw to the parliamentary assistant's attention several problems where women are being paid considerably less than men and where I do not think the present legislation or the amended legislation under Bill 141 as brought in originally would solve the problem. This is why we must change Bill 141; there are cases of workers being grossly discriminated against, yet the present legislation has not been able to solve their problems.

Let me refer first to the North York nurses who are seeking salaries equivalent to the male public health inspectors in the city's health department. The nurses, all women, are paid between \$22,300 and \$26,300 a year, while the salaries of public health inspectors range from about \$28,000 to more than \$31,000. It is true that they are two different jobs, but the educational qualifications for the women are higher than for the men and one can argue that their work is

considerably equivalent; they are dealing with the public in enforcing public health standards.

It appears that it is a straight case of sex discrimination and that by accepting a different rate for the public health nurses, North York is in effect discriminating against them in saying the market figure for women reflects the worth of their work. In effect, public health nurses in the city of Toronto make considerably more than the North York nurses, but that has not been accepted by the North York public health department as a reason for increasing the wages in North York.

The nurses require university training in addition to their registered nursing certificate, whereas the inspectors require diploma training, not university training. That is one case where the present legislation will not give fair treatment and equality to women.

5:50 p.m.

Another case involves the Toronto Star employees who sell advertising. There are 25 women employed by the Toronto Star whose job title is "classified ad solicitor." Their pay ranges from \$354 to \$459 a week. Their work, which involves selling advertising by telephone and using video display terminals, compares favourably in skill, effort, responsibility and working conditions to the work of outside advertising sales people. The outside sales people are paid \$458 to \$660 a week under the union agreement. Twelve of such employees are men.

There is a pay gap of \$200 a week between the two job classes, one traditionally staffed by men and the other by women. It would appear that can only be explained by the fact that the Toronto Star considers one a female job and the other a male job and that it is paying the women less because it is maintaining what could be called a job ghetto.

The women at the Toronto Star, after consulting their lawyers, have decided that the present equal pay law on the statute books of Ontario would not rectify this situation; so they are trying a unique course. They have gone to the Ontario Human Rights Commission and charged discrimination. They may succeed in getting an award under that but it will be a first if they do because the Ontario Human Rights Commission has not handled very many charges of wage discrimination on the grounds that equal pay is not being paid. Presumably people have been channelled through the Employment Standards Act on that question. We will be watching that case.

To have to put women through the hearing and procedures of the Ontario Human Rights Commission is rather cumbersome, and it requires investigations and a lot of work before one actually gets their case heard before a tribunal, if it is accepted. We do not even know whether it has been accepted yet by the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

It seems to me that by a simple amendment to our present equal pay legislation, simply stating that equal pay for work of equal value is the criterion, we could save women a tremendous amount of work, hiring of lawyers and delay in getting justice in cases of this sort.

The third case where our present law would not solve any problem is the case of the Dominion Stores clerks across the province. There are 11,000 clerks at Dominion Stores; half of them are women, half are men. The women are all clerk As and comprise more than 90 per cent of that category; they are cashiers, price change clerks, meat wrappers, bakery counter clerks, finishers in the bakery department and snack bar attendants. All the clerk Bs are men; they are shelf stockers, carry-out clerks, and they receive and pack groceries.

Their union is the Retail Wholesale Union. Local 14, in one store, tried to negotiate equal pay in its contract two years ago, but the employer refused. The men earn \$26 a week more than the women. This is a wage gap of more than \$1,300 a year.

To correct myself, Mr. Chairman, this was a contract for all the clerks in the Dominion stores across the province. The union negotiates for them jointly.

The salary administrator of Dominion Stores, Mr. Vid Juodgudis, said they justify the wage gaps because the work is dissimilar. He also confirmed that workers are paid the segregated wage rates even when, on occasion, asked to perform each others' work. He also confirmed, when asked, that part-time workers performing both jobs are paid the same amount when working, namely, the top rate of \$9.50 an hour. The full-time workers are the ones who are being discriminated against, but the part-time workers are recognized as doing the same work. This seems most illogical.

The government's proposed amendment to Bill 141 will not end this injustice. The employer will simply claim that these are dissimilar jobs; so this large group of employees, more than 5,000 clerks in the Dominion stores, will not be able to obtain justice in their wage rates.

I would like the parliamentary assistant to comment on whether he thinks the people in those three cases are being adequately looked after by the legislation we have.

I wonder whether the government is not ignoring this issue at its peril. Equal pay for work of equal value was accepted by all the political leaders in the last election. It was accepted by all three participants in the debate on women's issues; in fact, they were vying with each other in how far they were prepared to go.

I was at the debate and I made some notes on the positions of the three leaders. Mr. Mulroney said the principle of equal pay for work of equal value had not really been applied by the government even though it was in the law. He would see that contract compliance was introduced into the law whereby anybody doing business with the government would have to adopt equal pay for work of equal value. He said he would put his own house in order—that is, the public service—before he really got into contract compliance.

Mr. Turner had come out during the leadership campaign in favour of equal pay for work of equal value. When it came to the debate, he said that he agreed with the principle and that we should change from a passive to active promotion of the principle in the public service, in crown corporations and in all agencies under federal jurisdiction, but contract compliance, he thought, should wait for a federal-provincial conference.

Perhaps it is a good thing Mr. Turner is not the Prime Minister of Canada right now if we are going to have to wait for another federal-provincial conference, especially if Ontario were to sit at the conference table with its refusal to implement the principle even after voting for it in the Legislature.

Mr. Broadbent, of course, was able to say in the debate that the New Democratic Party had been long in favour of this principle. He also said: "You know, it is the law of Canada. Therefore, it is up to the government to get on with implementing it in the private sector as well as in the public sector, because the law applies to both." He also came out in favour of contract compliance.

With those three leaders leading the way, is the government opposing this principle at its peril? I find out that in the American campaign Mr. Mondale came out enthusiastically for the principle; even John Glenn and Gary Hart have done so, so it is also becoming a very popular issue in the United States.

6 p.m.

The National Action Committee on the Status of Women, which represents about three million women drawn from 285 groups, sent a telegram to the Minister of Labour recently in which it said that it as a body was supporting the principle and that it was not a small minority, as the Minister responsible for Women's Issues seemed to be suggesting in the House last June when he said to

the member for York South (Mr. Rae), "You people in the third party are only delegates. You are only speaking for a small group." I think he was repudiated and asked to withdraw that statement.

On motion by Hon. Miss Stephenson, the committee of the whole House reported progress.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

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No. 91

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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Monday, October 15, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Monday, October 15, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

ORAL QUESTIONS

Mr. Peterson: This government has completely fallen apart, Mr. Speaker. Who is left? Only the group that is not running for the leadership? Who is here today?

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: It is obvious that no one who is ambitious is here today.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me address my first question to the Minister of Health. I read with some interest in today's press that he may be changing his policy on extra billing. At least, it appears he is going to his federal colleagues to plead for some kind of relief from the Canada Health Act, and he may phase out extra billing. One does not know for sure what he is saying.

We do know the minister has withheld to this time some \$17 million from the federal transfers. We are further continuing to lose some \$4.4 million a month. My question is a simple one. Will he give us a clear statement of his government's policy on extra billing? Why will he not end it immediately?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I want to assure the Leader of the Opposition and our colleagues on the other side of the House that I would at no time entertain making any significant announcement of new policy on the part of this government outside this Legislature. I would not do that under any circumstances.

The honourable member does accuse me at times of being slow in answering questions, but there are also times when it appears that the members of the press gallery are a little slow in responding to the answers they get when they nail me in the hall. For example, last Tuesday I explained what I meant when I used the expression "flexibility in the interpretation of the legislation" as the possibility of looking at options involving a phasing-in of a new approach to extra billing in this province. I was not advancing a specific, preferred solution. It is

clearly one of a range of options that has been under consideration for some time.

Following some consultation with the federal government to determine more precisely its interpretation of what is meant by "appropriate compliance with the legislation" and some further consultation with the medical community, I will be in a position to make recommendations to my colleagues. I trust that will be before the end of the fall.

Mr. Peterson: While the minister is dithering, having discussions or pleading with his federal colleagues, and while he is trying to have some flexibility in the interpretation of the Canada Health Act and how he can wiggle out of it, if he is trying to do that, will he refund to the patients of Ontario who are being extra billed now that money they are spending by way of extra billing?

He presumably will argue that we will get a refund from the federal government when extra billing is banned. Will he give that same refund to the patients who are being extra billed now, tomorrow and yesterday?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The Leader of the Opposition ought to make some distinction between seeking an equitable solution and dithering about. If I have been dithering, then it has been while he has been scampering about this province making mealy-mouthed allegations that it is getting to the point where, to get into an Ontario hospital, one has to be a Tory. That is a totally irresponsible allegation for him to make and he knows it. Even the Liberals are offended by that kind of nonsense.

I have no plan under consideration to remit or reimburse anybody for extra billing. I do not think it would be a workable scheme at all. If he thinks about it, he would understand it would not be.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, apparently what was once a safety valve is now something else for the Liberal Party. I thought that party's position on extra billing was that it is a safety valve. I am somewhat bewildered.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the Minister of Health this question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: I have obviously touched a sensitive nerve of some kind.

While the taxpayers of Ontario are losing more than \$1 million a week, and the minister knows the revenue fund is short \$1 million a week, the patients of this province are paying that \$1 million a week to those members of the medical profession who have decided to have their cake and eat it at the same time.

In the light of that fact, how can the minister possibly justify the more than \$50 million a year being transferred from ordinary sick people to a very small minority of the medical profession that has decided to opt out of the medicare scheme? Will he not take steps to remedy the situation right away? It is not just the taxpayers; it is people who are ill who are paying this very unfair penalty put on them by the medical profession and subsidized, called for and tolerated by a Tory government in Ontario.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am not here to make a case for extra billing as a virtue. I have never taken that position, but I do hope there will always be at least some people in this Legislature who are prepared to look at a situation and say we must try to find an equitable and fair solution.

It seems at the moment we have a unanimous view on the opposite side of the House that we should forget the concept of fairness and the rules of the past 17 years in the medicare system in this country. We should ignore all that, even though this same provision was allowed for in Saskatchewan under the original Co-operative Commonwealth Federation scheme. Doctors have practised under those circumstances in this country for 17 years. I am not saying it is virtuous. I am saying, however, that in finding a solution one cannot ignore that there has been something of a social contract over that period of time.

Even Mr. Justice Emmett Hall has not said that we are in a state of crisis. He has said that if it is not dealt with, it could become a crisis in the future. I recognize the validity of that perception, and we are going to deal with it, but we will deal with it equitably and in the best interests of the consumer, while also seeking to be fair to the physicians of this province.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: With respect to his theory of equity and fairness, can the minister tell me where the equity and fairness are for Cecilia Murphy, aged 82, who has been extra billed for

cataract operations and related visits for the past three years? For example, in August 1983 she had surgery at a cost of \$403.20; the Ontario health insurance plan covered \$288.50. She has not visited a doctor recently for a possible further operation because she believes she will be extra billed and cannot afford it.

That is a real case of someone who is not seeking proper medical care because she cannot afford it. Where is the equity and fairness for Cecilia Murphy?

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not recall that the Leader of the Opposition has referred that specific case to me. If he has not, I suggest he has been remiss because we have a program in place with the Ontario Medical Association to redress those kinds of inequities that may arise from time to time.

If there is a situation such as he describes, and if he is willing to provide me with that information, we will deal with it. We have met with at least 98 per cent successful resolution of all the cases that have been raised as inequitable when they have been brought to the attention of the Ontario Medical Association.

However, if people see this only as a political opportunity, and if they are going to sit on cases where there may be some suffering so as to raise them in this House rather than bring them to my attention so they can be addressed, then that will result in some perception on the part of the public as to what they might really be up to.

Mr. Speaker: New question.

Mr. Peterson: The minister obviously sees his job as solving problems on an ad hoc, case-by-case basis rather than setting a policy. That is his whole problem right there. No wonder he has not accomplished anything. He is spending all his time fixing up individual abuses. What a ridiculous proposition for a minister.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: How did the Leader of the Opposition know?

Mr. Peterson: The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) will get her turn. I have a question for her. She is getting rather excited today.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the minister with regard to the impending strike at the community colleges. As the minister is aware, it will presumably take place on Wednesday, October 17; at least that is the target

date at the moment. She will also be aware of the issues at stake in those negotiations.

Will the minister not agree with me now that the potential strike is a direct result of her policies of slow strangulation of the post-secondary education system in this province over the past number of years, whereby she has refused to keep pace with increased enrolments and with inflation, which together have brought on the situation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, that is the most ludicrous suggestion I have heard in this House in the past two years. If the honourable member has looked at the record, I am sure he will have determined that the allocation to the colleges has been at the level of, or significantly above, the inflation rate for the past five years. Indeed, the college system has been funded generously in comparison to some other parts of government responsibility for at least that period of time. It has nothing to do with money at this stage of the game.

Mr. Peterson: It is quite clear that classroom sizes have increased by some 15 per cent in the last little while. One of the major issues on the table today is the hours spent in the classroom by the teachers, which reflects directly on the quality of education.

The issue on the bargaining table now is the quality of education. Does the minister feel the quality of education in this province, the future of our young people, should be hammered out in an adversarial process over the bargaining table, or should it be set by the minister responsible for education policy in this province? Who is making education policy in this province?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: The member should recognize that policy is established as a result of conjoint action among all those who are charged with the responsibility of delivering the educational program in any of the institutions.

What is at stake at the moment is a disagreement between the direct employers of faculty members and the faculty members themselves. It has nothing to do with the hours in the classroom. It has to do with the request of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union regarding the additional hours beyond the 19 to 20 the teachers spend in the classroom.

I have to tell the member that at this point it is my understanding that fewer than about 10 per cent of all the teachers in the college system are spending 19 hours per week in the classroom. On average, most of them are spending 15 to 17 hours per week in the classroom.

The matter is not related to the hours in the classroom, but to the demand of OPSEU that additional hours, which are needed for preparation of classes and marking of examinations, be included in whatever formula is established to provide the funding level for members of faculty. That matter bears very serious consideration.

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I am not exactly sure where the minister gets her information that fewer than 10 per cent spend any proportion of time even approaching the hours she referred to in preparing for classes outside the classroom. I would like to suggest that—

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Allen: May I ask the minister where that information comes from? Has she discussed the matter with OPSEU directly? Has she raised that question with the teachers in question? Is she able to give us some hard data on that question? Does she not think that any proportion of the teachers having to spend even nearly the amounts of time referred to in her answer would be excessive and that the concerns of the OPSEU teachers are therefore very legitimate in these circumstances?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I will say again for the member for Hamilton West that the hours I was referring to, the 19 to 20 hours per week, are direct student contact in classrooms. That is what I was talking about, and not all the additional hours the honourable member was mentioning, which he thought I had included in their contractual arrangements. I was talking about that which—

Interjection.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I did not. If I did not say "direct student contact in the classroom," that is what I meant. It is classroom contact that has been negotiated in the past. That is the only thing that has been negotiated in the past, and on average within contracts it is between 19 and 20 hours.

What I said was that, as a result of information gleaned by those responsible for the colleges individually, it is my understanding that fewer than 10 per cent of the teachers in the college system spend that number of hours in direct student contact in the classroom. They spend between 15 and 17 hours per week on average in the classroom in direct student contact.

I also said OPSEU was demanding that there be an inclusion in the formula of the hours the teachers spend either preparing for classes, which is not direct student contact in the classroom, or marking examinations. I hope that

clarifies it for the member. I was not suggesting anything other than that.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, my colleague the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway) refers to the minister as the czarina of all education, the top person in education.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I am not. I am simply the minister.

Mr. Bradley: That is the top person in education in the province.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Bradley: Specifically what action has the minister taken in, let us say, at least the last few hours as we get near the Wednesday deadline to ensure that every possible avenue of action is being exhausted in the collective negotiating process to ensure that an amicable and acceptable settlement is reached? What intervention has the minister taken to ensure that the education process continues at community colleges and that a settlement is reached which is acceptable to all?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, I have had many discussions, and I think that is what needs to be said in this area. Within the last couple of hours I have also arranged that there be a meeting of the representatives of the students who are outside with members of my staff in order that the students should be given complete and accurate information about the situation. That is precisely what has happened, because I do not want the students to be labouring under any misapprehensions about what is happening at the moment.

2:20 p.m.

As the member knows, there are talks going on. It is my understanding that the position of the Council of Regents was presented to the union at about 10:45 this morning, and it was also my understanding that the mediator is awaiting the response from the union at this point.

EDUCATION FOR DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Education. After doing battle with this government over its unmerciful attack on centres for the developmentally handicapped, do we now have to go back into the trenches to defend the Robarts School in London, a school established in the name of the former Premier of this province for the education of the deaf?

Why is the director of the provincial schools branch, Bryan Robertson, so determined to dismantle the Robarts School by threatening to terminate the secondary school program with the

eventuality, knowing this government's record, of phasing out all educational programs at the Robarts School and compelling the deaf children to move away from their families and friends in order to get an education?

What has gone wrong with a government that treats its handicapped people in such a disdainful manner?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, the only thing that is wrong is the absolute inability of the honourable member to read. It is not, in fact, the intention of this government to remove that educational program.

Why does the member not ask his leader? He has at least three copies of a letter that has been sent to parents. There has been a discussion about whether it would be possible to maintain the appropriate secondary school program for deaf children at the Robarts School; that is the concern.

The projection is that within the next two years we will have fewer than 30 teen-aged children eligible for the secondary school program at the Robarts School in London. That is of major concern because it becomes very difficult to provide the appropriate educational program for those students under the appropriate circumstances with that very small number of students. Therefore, discussions are going on involving the teachers at Robarts, those who are interested and knowledgeable about the teaching of the children at Robarts School, and the parents of children at the Robarts School, about what the eventual program should be for secondary school pupils.

The letters that have been sent indicate, and the intention of the ministry and the government is, that the elementary program will remain always at the Robarts School. Whether the secondary school program will or not I cannot tell the member at this point, because my primary concern is the quality of the educational program for those pupils.

Mr. Riddell: We will be in to see the minister, and I hope she will entertain the thought of—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for London North.

Mr. Riddell: They do not believe her. I spent all Saturday morning talking to the parents.

Mr. Speaker: I will caution the member for Huron-Middlesex, and this will be the last time.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, the point my colleague was trying to make was a point related to trust. We know the minister is referring to the secondary panel at this investigation that is

currently going on, but we do not know why the rush. This committee, which is top-heavy with ministry people and has fewer parents than anyone else, is to report within two to three months. Any other normal school closing routine would take about a year and a half to two years, so there is a considerable lack of trust in the whole process.

If the minister has her mind made up to do something with the secondary panel, will she direct the people on that committee to approach the London Board of Education to take over that program?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, the London Board of Education is already involved in discussions regarding the administration of certain educational programs in specific institutions in London, and we think this is an appropriate kind of activity for local boards. The very grave concern we have had is that if the student body shrinks to a very small number, it will not be possible for anyone to provide the appropriate range of program offerings. That is the primary concern.

Why is the member shaking his head? He was a school administrator. He knows that is so.

Mr. Van Horne: Yes, and I am right.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: In addition to that, there is no unholy rush about this, except in so far as there is concern about the quality of the educational program being provided to the students now and in the future. That is the only matter of grave concern to me. That is the basis upon which the committee has been established. I do not think it is top-heavy with anyone right at the moment, but if it is and there are not enough parental participants, then we will do something to correct that.

I believe it is in the best interests of those students to look critically at what is likely to happen to their educational program in the future and to try to do the best we can for them.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Hamilton West with a nonprovocative question.

EDUCATION FUNDING

Mr. Allen: Mr. Speaker, I am always non-provocative. Perhaps your admonition should rest in another direction.

I would like to pose a question to the Minister of Education. Does the minister know that today, in the community of Barr Haven on the outskirts of Ottawa, the parents in that community have

withheld 400 children from school in order to demonstrate their great frustration over the extreme overcrowding their children have been subjected to in their school for several years, and over the lack of any successful results in their earlier approaches to the government? Would the minister tell us what she knows of this situation and any involvement of her ministry in it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, of course there is some involvement of the ministry in this matter because the member for Carleton (Mr. Mitchell)—I do not think he is here today—has kept us very fully informed about developments. In addition to that, in communications with the Carleton Board of Education, we have developed what appears to be an appropriate means of attempting to resolve the issue with which the board and the parents are faced.

At present we have proposed the transfer of \$750,000, which was allocated to that board for the purchase of a site, to the building of a school on a site the board already owns. We have suggested that the board, with the reserves already in its possession, proceed with the establishment of relocatables that could be used for the sections of a core school on that site now. If the Carleton board will make that its first priority in the allocation process for the year 1985-86, we will most certainly look at it, because it is the first priority we can deal with.

That seemed to be a very reasonable kind of activity in terms of the requirements of the Carleton board, and I hoped we might have a positive response from the board. At this point, I have not had a response of any kind to that proposal.

Mr. Allen: As the minister knows, the board has been most accepting of any proposal and also has been very responsive in offering a site that was intended for a secondary school. However, as I understand it, has not the minister to date been unsuccessful in securing adequate bridge funding from Management Board to provide for the funding of a suitable second elementary school in that community?

Does it not appear rather strange to the minister that at this time we should have a community of 16,000 people that buses two thirds of its students out of its own community for appropriate schooling? Does the minister really believe the relocatables are a satisfactory solution? Will she not commit herself here and now to a complete and new facility for elementary education in that community?

2:30 p.m.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: If the honourable member was really listening to what I said, he would understand that the relocatables being suggested would be part and parcel of an entirely new school within the Barr Haven community for elementary students. That is precisely the program we have presented to the board on the basis of the way in which funds can be allocated for school buildings.

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, why does it always take the Ministry of Education and the minister so long to respond to the genuine needs that exist not only in this area but also in other parts of the province where people have to bus so many children to schools around the province? Why does it take demonstrations of this kind, letters to those of us in the opposition and an uproar before the minister will respond in a favourable and appropriate fashion to the need for funds for capital programs?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, in actual fact we have very few so-called uproars within Ontario related to the provision of educational buildings. The responsibility for that determination is the responsibility of the locally elected board of education and there are routes to ensure that what is actually needed within that board's jurisdiction can be met. When the board decides to make it its first priority, on the basis of determination of projected enrolment, then it is relatively easy in most circumstances—not in all—to meet the requirements of the board.

But when the boards submit annually lists of capital activity which they feel are absolutely necessary in the amounts of \$350 million, it is a little difficult to meet that with \$100 million, which is approximately what the allocation is for the building of school buildings. With the very significant decline in enrolment that has been going on for the past 14 years, we do attempt to work with the boards to solve their problems. As a result, there are almost no uproars in the province. From time to time we do have one, and it is only because they are so unusual that the members find them to be so attractive for their support.

Mr. Speaker: The member for Windsor—

Mr. Wrye: Windsor-Sandwich, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: No, I was—

Mr. Rae: I think it is their turn, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, it is their turn, but I was wondering if you want to revert to leader's questions and we can carry on and then come back. The member for York South.

WAGE PROTECTION

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Would the minister cast his mind back to June 9, 1983, when he announced in this House that he was establishing a special Commission of Inquiry into Wage Protection? Why has it taken from June 9, 1983, until who knows when for us to be officially advised of anything with respect to this report?

Is the minister aware that since he commissioned this report, 2,818 businesses in this province have been declared bankrupt and literally thousands of workers in this province have been forced on to the unemployment rolls without any protection with respect to wages that are owing to them, termination pay, severance pay, etc?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member is referring to the task force headed up by Mr. Brown. It was announced on June 9, 1983. That is correct. The task force slowed down in the fall of last year because—

Mr. Rae: No kidding.

Mr. Martel: Slowed down? It went backwards.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: With just cause. The federal government had reintroduced a bill and much of what we were doing here in the province would be duplication of what was being done by the federal government. Mr. Brown waited to see what would happen with the federal government. When it became apparent that not too much was going to happen there, Mr. Brown recommenced his investigation.

Mr. Rae: I have in my hand a copy of an interim report dated December 15, 1983. Without intending any disrespect to Mr. Brown, that report simply provides us with information that was well known to everyone with respect to the lack of protection of the working people in this province when a company is forced into bankruptcy or receivership. We did not need the six months or so for Mr. Brown to come up with that, and since that time absolutely nothing has been done, nothing at all has happened.

How can the minister justify that kind of delay when literally thousands of working people in Ontario have been laid off? The minister has seen them in his office as I have seen them in mine and as every member has seen them. They have not received severance pay or termination pay. In many instances they have not received back wages and have absolutely no legal rights in Ontario.

The minister has sat there and done nothing. On receipt of this report, nothing was said and nothing was done. How can he justify that kind of lethargy at a time of hardship for working people in Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: As I tried to explain, the member has a copy of an interim report. Mr. Brown recommenced his study when it was apparent that nothing was happening at the federal level. He has been working on it since then. I am confident we will have his final report in the very near future.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, can the minister give us an assurance today that his government will not wait for a lead from Ottawa in this matter? Can he assure us that when the final report from Mr. Brown arrives on his desk we will have some speedy action, knowing as he does that literally thousands of workers in companies that have gone into bankruptcy or into receivership have had absolutely not one whit of protection? Is this government going to start protecting the working people of Ontario, or is it going to look down the road to Ottawa, as it usually does, for the protection it should have brought in a long time ago?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, if we look down the road to Ottawa we would be in rather dire straits because Ottawa has been wrestling with that problem for many years now. On three different occasions, the Liberal Party in Ottawa brought in bills and on three different occasions that party withdrew them or let them die. That party in Ottawa was not able to find a solution to the very complex problem over the decade. Now the member is asking the Ontario government to come up with one overnight. We are hoping to have something concrete in the not too distant future.

Mr. Rae: The problem the minister has described is simply an excuse. It is that federal-provincial shell game and the government cannot get away with it any longer. The minister knew there was a problem when he set up the commission of inquiry. There was no news in that.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: When is the minister going to start to recognize the legitimate claims of wage earners when faced with a bankruptcy? Does he not see those claims as being just as important as those of a bank, a trust company or some other kind of secured creditor? When is he going to give the wage earners the kind of priority and the kind of assurance they deserve?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Let me make one point abundantly clear. I do consider the wages of the employee more important than the claims of the bank or other secured creditors. I place a high priority on that and would hope to have Mr. Brown's report in the very near future.

Mr. Rae: It was announced today in the newspaper that as a result of another bankruptcy, a bankruptcy of ideas, the first president of the Innovation Development for Employment Advancement Corp. is apparently leaving the government's employment with a year's salary of \$115,000 for severance pay.

What kind of a message is it sending to the ordinary workers of this province when they see that kind of settlement to an individual? I know nothing personally of Mr. St. John one way or the other, but we know that he was working for a very few years for the government. According to the column today in the Toronto Star, he is receiving that kind of severance pay.

What kind of message is the government sending to the ordinary workers of this province when they see that kind of deal for somebody working at a management level in government, but sweet Fanny Adams for themselves as a result of the kind of delay the minister has been putting up with?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I have not had the opportunity to read the morning papers yet. Further, that is the first indication I have had of the severance pay of the gentleman in question. I think that question should more appropriately be directed to either the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) or the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller).

Mr. Rae: We are talking about fairness. I would like to give the minister one example, the Woods company, in the riding of my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). What kind of termination pay, notice pay or severance pay did the workers at that company get?

2:40 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am unaware of the circumstances surrounding the resignation of this gentleman. I think it would be highly inappropriate for me to comment on it when I do not know the background of his severance.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, he is a minister of the crown and he is obliged to defend government policy in this regard. He is aware of the details that have surrounded the IDEA Corp. It stumbled about for a couple of years and now the president has resigned. As my colleague pointed out, the reported severance pay was more

than \$100,000. Reputedly, \$250,000 was spent for executive search to find this individual or others and reputedly they have chairs that cost \$2,000 a piece. They have lost at least \$1 million on one operation and the rest of them are highly questionable.

The question still stands, what kind of signal does it send out when the government treats its own in such a privileged way, sitting on these expensive chairs following expensive searches and given expensive severances, accomplishing nothing of any real benefit to the people of this province? How does that speak to government policy when there are thousands in this province without jobs?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to defend the actions of this government at any time, but only when I have all of the background information.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, to say that the minister is going to defend the actions of this government would imply that the government was actually doing something, and we all know that is something the government is physically, psychologically and in every way unable to do at the present time.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Rae: I would like to ask the minister the simple—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Martel: Did the member for Wilson Heights (Mr. Rotenberg) finally wake up? He has been comatose for a week.

Mr. Rae: I think somebody turned the buzz-saw on down in the front row, Mr. Speaker.

Despite the sweet noises of angels coming from the other side, I would like to ask the minister a very simple, direct question. There is a very terrible signal that is being sent out by this government. It is being sent out every day with respect to the double standard at work. This is a very real double standard.

Will the minister bring in legislation to protect ordinary workers with respect to severance pay and termination pay at a time of bankruptcy or receivership or for any other reason? Will he finally bring in legislation before Christmas? Can we have that absolute guarantee from the minister today?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, as I said back in June and as I have said on other occasions, I am very hopeful of bringing in legislation. Whether it will be by Christmas or not, I cannot say at this time.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL TREATMENT

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health, regarding the overcrowding crisis in Windsor hospitals, a crisis that is beginning to affect patient care in a very real way. Is the minister aware of the dangerous overcrowding at Hotel Dieu of St. Joseph Hospital where last Friday every outpatient bed was taken by an inpatient admission, all six observation beds were filled and beds in the emergency section were taken, in what one senior administrator called “an awful situation”?

Is the minister aware that at the Metropolitan General Hospital on the same day outpatient beds and hallway beds were in use and that the overcrowding was so bad that some patients, including one stroke victim, were hospitalized in the paediatric unit of that hospital?

Is the minister aware there was one day last week when for three to four hours ambulances arriving at Salvation Army Grace Hospital in Windsor were turned away and sent to other hospitals because of the desperate overcrowding situation?

Has the minister been made aware of this situation in Windsor and what is he going to do about it immediately to alleviate this crisis?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say I am familiar in detail with the situation the honourable member describes.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I beg your pardon?

Mr. Speaker: Order. Never mind the interjections, please. Respond to the question.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know how I can solve these problems when the member hides them from me until he can raise them in the House.

I will be quite happy to review the situation he describes. I do know that from time to time situations do arise where, by virtue of circumstances in a given community, there is an unpredictable crowding of the hospitals. But, in fairness, we must look at such situations with some care because very often it is the case that we will find the apparent overcrowding is not necessarily general, but rather restricted to particular services. I am not saying that is the case in this situation.

Mr. Wrye: Don't be silly.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I am not being silly, I am being reasonable about this and I would ask the honourable member to be so as well. Situations

often develop in which, by virtue of the traditional practice of protecting certain beds for certain purposes, individuals will be told there are no beds available. One will find that in other parts of the hospital there are beds available. I can demonstrate this by using the situation in Toronto where, on an average day, between 1,000 and 1,600 beds are vacant.

These are acute care beds. A similar kind of percentage—approximately 10 per cent—is likely to be the case in most hospitals. It may not be the case on every given day in a place such as Windsor. I am willing to review the situation.

The member knows we have had and are having ongoing discussions with the hospitals in Windsor and the district health council, a matter touched upon last week in this House in a question. We have a firm commitment with respect to additional beds in Windsor. Last week we received the revised report recommending what appears now to be a solution accepted by the hospitals in Windsor.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Wrye: Is the minister aware that as of midnight last night the census count at Met hospital was 99 per cent? Is the minister aware that the IODE hospital, the Windsor Western Hospital Centre, has taken to admitting patients as late as 10 o'clock and 11 o'clock at night? That is how desperate the bed shortage is.

May I suggest that the minister review a news release dated May 19, 1983, in which his predecessor, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman), announced an additional allocation of 49 beds, bringing the chronic care bed total in Windsor to 475. We still do not have them.

May I also suggest that the minister review a proposal on his desk for an amalgamation of the paediatric unit, which would immediately free up for acute care some 20 to 30 beds over at Met hospital. Nothing has happened for 17 months. The only thing that has happened in Windsor is that the crisis has grown worse. When is the minister going to stop issuing press releases and start living up to the promises that he, his predecessor and his government made so many months ago?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The honourable member already knows the commitment made for 49 additional chronic care beds is a firm commitment. A great deal of effort has gone into dealing with that situation at the local level, with significant involvement from the ministry on an ongoing basis.

Mr. Wrye: One meeting.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, that is not true.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: If the member knows of only one meeting, then somebody is not giving him all the information.

Mr. Wrye: The minister has had only one meeting.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I do not know who supposedly told the member that. It is not true.

Mr. Speaker: Now back to the question, please.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Last week I received the report to which I referred. It gives what I expect to be the final recommendation, having been arrived at with a great deal of effort on the part of the ministry and the district health council. It arrives at an agreement among the hospitals as to the distribution of the 475 chronic beds in the community.

Since we have received the report from his community as recently as last week, the member cannot expect us to have had an opportunity already to implement it. It will be handled with expediency. What more can he expect me to say at this point? Obviously, we will respond.

With respect to the other situation, I will investigate and find out the specific details of the overcrowding situation that occurred and which the member described to the House. I will get back to him on that.

2:50 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, since the chronic care hospital for Windsor was first demanded and needed in Windsor 14 years ago when the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis) was first elected Premier of this province, can he assure us that perhaps we will have approval from this government before his tenure as Premier is over?

Secondly, does the minister not understand that the crisis in Windsor, as in every other community in this province, goes to the basic fact that there is not enough community support programs? We have people in hospitals who need not be in hospitals and nursing homes and we have people who need to be in hospitals but cannot get there because of inappropriate placements.

When is the minister going to develop a strategy for his ministry, a strategy for health care, instead of the ad hoc approach he took in his response to the district health councils just a couple of weeks ago? He gave literally nothing in

terms of a response to this planning that was supposed to be taking place over the last two years and that his predecessor, now the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), started. He seems to have dropped it totally along with everything else.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, once again, the member ought to have been at that meeting with the district health councils. I wish he had been. Their impression of what we are doing in response to the planning process is quite different from his. It may be that certain individuals did not agree with the overwhelming majority of those who were present, but generally what I proposed that evening was very well received and has had very positive follow-up since, except from the member and the press. It certainly is a major step forward in advancing the process and not being occupied or preoccupied only with process, but getting into matters of substance.

With respect to the earlier part of the member's question, I would dearly love to be in a position to improve his hospital prior to the retirement of the Premier. I will have to consult with my colleagues. They are all in seclusion today, so I do not know.

PROTECTION OF NIAGARA ESCARPMENT

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, in view of the absence of the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development (Mr. Sterling) and the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), I will put a question on the Niagara Escarpment to the Deputy Premier.

I am sure he will know that permission has been given by the government to Regan Graham Ltd. of Brampton to open a wayside pit in the Caledon area from which they have been given permission to extract something over a million tons of aggregate, even though the Niagara Escarpment Commission strenuously opposed that wayside permit. Is he aware that the Niagara Escarpment Commission recommended that a limit of 20,000 tons of aggregate be permitted for extraction in the protected area of the escarpment?

The Provincial Secretary for Resources Development removed that limit when he recommended to cabinet the removal of that 20,000-ton limit. Now that the Niagara Escarpment plan is before cabinet for its approval and there is this example I have given the minister of a million tons, would he not agree that the 20,000-ton limit should be reinstated in that Niagara Escarpment plan or our escarpment is going to be pitted worse than the battlegrounds of Europe were in the last war?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, in replying to the question of my friend the member for Welland-Thorold, I might draw the attention of members to the fact that his very charming wife is in the gallery today with visitors. I want to welcome the wife of the member for Welland-Thorold who really is the power behind the member. I want members to realize that. I am going to be very interested in her report card today with respect to any assessments that are being made.

It is my understanding that the quota or quantity, reference to which the member made, is currently under review. It was the Ministry of Transportation and Communications that granted this particular permit for a specific contract. As far as any other information is concerned, I feel quite satisfied, now that the question has been put completely on the record, that the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development could provide information. In summary, MTC did issue a permit for a specific contract, and I think the point that is raised by the member with respect to quantity is currently under active review.

Mr. Swart: May I express my appreciation to the minister for recognizing my wife in the gallery, but say that is no excuse for not giving his commitment to preserve the escarpment.

Does the minister not realize that the legislation for wayside pits bypasses all the safeguards and the rights of the public to which licensed pits are subject? Is he not also aware that there were two licensed pits operating within almost a stone's throw of this proposed wayside pit and they were bypassed?

Does he not think the public can rightly assume that the government, and he is part of that overall government, including the Ministry of Transportation and Communications, is deliberately bypassing the escarpment preservation legislation and even the Pits and Quarries Control Act to give the aggregate producers access to cheap gravel, regardless of the damage it does to the escarpment?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I know the honourable member's ongoing concern and commitment to this whole question of preservation and I certainly do not feel he would want to leave the impression this government has not been committed to that particular program. He was in Burlington when my colleague, the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, unveiled the government's intentions with respect to the plan.

I think, generally speaking, it has been well received and certainly does embody a very tangible commitment to the preservation of a very important land mass as far as this province is concerned. The specific matters to which he has made reference, as I have already indicated, are currently under review, and I feel quite satisfied my colleague will provide that additional information once that review is complete.

USE OF LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, who, I understand, attempted to answer a question of my colleague the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) last Friday. He was thinking about being in Tiger Stadium or something and did a very unsatisfactory job.

I want to continue the questioning on the Victoria Park crossing waste site, with particular reference to an answer which the minister gave last Friday to my colleague, wherein he stated that it was not up to himself or his ministry to get involved in any public meetings.

The minister well knows he has issued two certificates of approval for building on top of that waste site, the last one in June of this year, concerning the question of the monitoring of emissions of methane gas. He will probably know that under sections of the Environmental Protection Act the minister can and probably should have looked at the requests of the citizens who petitioned his office well in advance of his decision to hold those meetings.

Why did the Ministry of the Environment decide not to hold those meetings? Why is the minister not upholding the requirements of the Environmental Protection Act in this particular situation?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased the honourable member made a brief reference to some activities that took place over the course of this past weekend. There are members of this House who did look with some interest at the World Series that was occurring and, of course, the best team did win that particular event.

I trust as well that I can explain to the member what happened in connection with the issue that was raised by his colleague last Friday. My ministry did, in fact, work with the municipality in this particular connection to determine that the site was totally and completely safe in every respect. The developer was most co-operative in building barriers to make absolutely certain there was no escape of methane gases from the site.

In our view, there was no necessity for holding a hearing.

There were requests that were made of both the municipality and my ministry, but neither in the case of the municipality nor in the case of the Ministry of the Environment did we deem it to be necessary for a full public hearing to be held.

Mr. Elston: I wonder if the minister might tell the House why he and his ministry found it so necessary, if they were absolutely convinced that there was no danger in building on this site, to require the inclusion in the agreement, paragraph 3, between Runnymede Development Corp., the proponent, and Her Majesty the Queen, of a provision wherein they require Runnymede to prevent any sort of liability falling upon the shoulders of the crown arising out of negligence or otherwise whether involving property or otherwise going along with the escape of gas or the gas venting system.

Can the minister tell us why, if he was so sure he was absolutely right, he required this agreement of indemnification for his ministry? Why is he trying to get out of living up to his obligations to the public of this province?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It should be self-evident in this instance that we are not trying to get out of any obligations on the part of the government. We are trying to hold the builder to his ongoing obligations. In fact, if title to that property is ever transferred to another owner, that particular responsibility will be carried with it ad infinitum.

We have a responsibility in perpetuity, on the part of the developer, which not only saves the taxpayers of this province some money, but also puts the responsibility where I am sure one would like it to be, on the shoulders of the developer who is, at least ostensibly, going to earn the profits from that particular development. I think we have handled this in a completely forward and responsible way.

MINORITY LANGUAGE SERVICES

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health.

The minister will recall that last April in Toronto's Northwestern General Hospital, because of a language barrier, a very serious tragedy occurred. An Italian-speaking psychiatric patient committed suicide because, according to the chief nurse, there was no Italian-speaking psychiatrist in the hospital and there was no way the patient could communicate with the doctors. According to the Ontario Medical Association,

there are only two Italian-speaking psychiatrists in Toronto.

Has the minister addressed that question and if he has, what action has he decided to take to remedy that type of situation?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I cannot say that I am familiar with the particular tragedy to which the honourable member refers. Of course, not being familiar with it, I would not be in a position to know whether the language barrier was a factor in the tragedy.

However, I do recognize that, as with many linguistic groups in Canada, there are some problems with respect to the provision of a full range of services, and that it is particularly serious in some areas such as psychiatry where oral communication is an essential part of therapy.

I have been looking at a proposal, not in this particular community but from another community in Ontario, to fund a multilingual service that would assist people whose first language is not English or French. I have not yet reached a final decision upon whether that is the most appropriate way to go.

Ultimately, I suppose, the solution will be found only when we have enough young men and women who are fluent in various languages—in this instance, Italian—who are prepared to pursue medical studies in a range of specialties including psychiatry.

I do not know whether the member has any other short-term solutions. If he has, I will be glad to hear them.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CITY OF BELLEVILLE ACT

Mr. McNeil moved, seconded by Mr. Haggerty, first reading of Bill Pr30, An Act respecting the City of Belleville.

Motion agreed to.

ACCESS TO MEDICAL RECORDS ACT

Mr. Grande moved, seconded by Mr. Philip, first reading of Bill 126, An Act to provide for a Right of Access by Patients to their own Medical Records.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Grande: Mr. Speaker, the bill provides that patients are entitled to see their own medical records on request unless the attending physician states in writing that this will harm the patient or another person. I may add that it gives the government a perfect opportunity to act on the Krever royal commission report of 1980.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before calling the orders for today, I might indicate to the House that the order of business for tomorrow evening will be consideration of government motion 11, an interim supply motion standing in the name of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman).

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS (continued)

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, at the outset I would like to thank the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) and the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne) for their kind remarks at the opening of their leadoff statements.

It has been my pleasure to serve in this House for the past 17 years in a variety of roles that have made my experience as a member much more challenging, much more diverse and, I think, much more satisfying than anything else I might have undertaken during that period of years. I have tried to express the views of people in the riding of Lake Nipigon, which was formerly the riding of Thunder Bay.

As the critic for our party for the activities of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, I have had the privilege and pleasure of working with the minister and, for at least the last couple of years, with the member for London North. We have taken a couple of side trips together to deal with issues of mutual interest and concern, and it has been a pleasure working with both of them. It is at least two years of my experience down here as a member that I will long remember, and once again I want to thank both of them for their kind remarks.

3:10 p.m.

Incidentally, one of the trips I took with the minister and the member for London North was to investigate the potential for better ways of delivering electrical services to remote northern communities, where we had an opportunity to investigate the potential for the gasification of peat as an alternative to the burning of fuel oil for the generation of electricity at northern reserves, and at northern communities generally, that were not plugged into the provincial grid; that is, the distribution lines of Ontario Hydro.

Perhaps the member for London North is not familiar with the specific, unique and ongoing problems of northern communities and their need

for an alternative source of generating electric energy in communities where one can pay as much as \$4 for a gallon of fuel oil to generate electricity on the reserves.

The minister has travelled far and wide with some of his colleagues in the Ministry of Northern Affairs, and I think particularly of Andy Morpurgo, who has just retired from the service of this ministry and from government service generally. I can recall a trip the minister took to Italy to look at new technology for the generation of electricity.

The minister will know, and many members of the House will know, that I have discussed this very issue, dealing with immersible generators, the gasification of peat as a means of generating electricity and the use of wind-diesel hybrid systems to bring down the cost of electricity, which can run as high as 30 cents per kilowatt-hour in many of those northern communities.

While the minister has travelled far and wide investigating these new technologies, the Minister of Energy (Mr. Andrewes) and at least five of his predecessors in that portfolio will know that there has been an ongoing investigation of that new technology for at least four years. They started out by building a demonstration model on Toronto Islands to investigate that new technology. After doing that for a year and a half, one would have thought that if they were going to spend any money on further investigation, they would have done it in an area where that new technology had some practical application.

I am referring specifically to a study done by the Ministry of Energy at least five or six years ago when it undertook to decide where the highest constant wind velocities occurred in Ontario. Other than right here in this chamber, it was found that those locations were on the shores of Hudson Bay. I want to refer specifically to the study that was done which indicated the highest constant wind velocities of any place in Ontario were at Fort Severn on the shore of Hudson Bay.

Through the Ministry of Energy, through private enterprise and through some technical assistance by the Ontario Research Foundation and the National Research Council, it was decided the technology was worthy of further investigation and application. However, what did they do? Did they put it in a northern community where it would have had some practical application? No. They put it in Coniston, in the Sudbury basin.

They have spent well in excess of \$1 million on that new technology. They have been monitoring it, I am told, through the efforts of the

National Research Council of Canada in Ottawa and people who are down here in the Ministry of Energy and private enterprise, and we are no closer to the day when we can apply that technology in an area where it is so badly needed.

I hark back to the trip that the minister, the member for London North and I took more than two years ago where there was a genuine interest shown by the minister, who is the minister of everything in terms of northern Ontario, given his responsibility to co-ordinate, facilitate and implement policies, particularly in those areas where the so-called traditional lead ministers are, for any number of reasons, dragging their feet.

If there is anything at all in the mandate given to this minister and this ministry, given the physical characteristics and demographics of his own riding, it would seem that he, better than most, would know how badly we need that new technology to make life a little better in those northern communities, to improve the human condition so that the people can take advantage at reasonable cost of a service so basic to life anywhere in Ontario as electric energy.

I have not heard anything emanating from this ministry along those lines. Given that there was a commitment by the three members in this House who are more interested, more knowledgeable and more concerned about northern services, one would have thought we would have seen some initiative taken by this minister and this ministry in something that is of such vital importance to life in northern Ontario.

In his opening comments the minister mentioned that an interministerial committee had been formed to look into the implementation of a strategic plan to assist those communities that are going to be so vitally affected by that new-found wealth at Hemlo by virtue of the fact that they have identified an ore body there that is valued at about \$10 billion. I happen to know that one of the minister's personnel, namely Mr. Ernie Lane of the Thunder Bay office, was charged with the responsibility of chairing that interministerial committee.

3:20 p.m.

Prior to that, the minister had something called a co-ordinating committee. I am wondering what the difference is, what the new emphasis will be. The minister will know that I directed a letter to him several months ago, addressed to the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett), the Minister of Revenue (Mr. Gregory), the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and himself, highlighting the specific and unique problems that

face municipalities in a particular way, namely Manitouwadge and Marathon, that will be the dormitory communities for a permanent work force in excess of 1,000 people for the life of that ore body, which is estimated to be at least 20 years.

The minister will know an application by the Lake Superior Board of Education has been in the hands of the Minister of Education and her ministry for about a year now, asking for the right to annex those areas that will be generating that new wealth, so it could add that to its tax rolls to pay the exorbitantly high cost of providing education for students in four communities spread over a distance of 120 miles. We are still waiting for the Ministry of Education to react to that application for the annexation to broaden the tax base.

The minister will also know we had a meeting at the Valhalla Inn in Thunder Bay a few short weeks ago with representatives from the four ministries I just mentioned, asking for some initiative, individually and collectively by those four ministries, to help the communities of Manitouwadge and Marathon. They are called upon to be the dormitory communities for the new work force which is generating that new wealth. That will, in turn, generate taxes for the benefit of the two senior levels of government, without a compensating formula that will help those communities charged with the responsibility of providing additional services. Pressure has been put on those communities as a result of that new-found wealth.

The minister may know that at present, within the Lake Superior Board of Education, a sizeable amount of the taxes that are contributed for educational costs in that jurisdiction come from the two major employers resident in one of the four municipalities, namely Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd. of Terrace Bay, which pays \$1,988,786 in municipal and educational taxes—I just got these figures before coming into the House from Scott Chalmers of Kimberly-Clark. That is their municipal tax bill which goes for municipal and educational costs; and their counterpart in Marathon, James River-Marathon Ltd., pays \$1.6 million.

For your benefit, Mr. Chairman, and for the benefit of any member in this House who cares to listen, particularly the people under the gallery who are, I hope, going to be charged with the responsibility of coming up with a formula, a different cost-sharing mechanism, to help those dormitory communities over the rough spots, I might say that whenever I have mentioned it in

the past, the minister or his colleague the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) have always said, "There you go again"—an old Reagan cliché—"you are always trying to tax the industries."

I am not saying that. I am not saying mining companies in Ontario should be levied an additional tax. The minister, along with his colleagues the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), the Minister of Revenue and whoever else sits down to make those determinations, should take a look at the contribution that will be made by way of existing taxes at the federal and provincial levels by companies such as Noranda Mines, Lac Minerals Ltd. and Teck-Corona, which are going to benefit in a very significant way by the exploitation of those gold ore resources at Hemlo. If he in his judgement feels they are already paying enough by way of corporate tax, mining tax and royalties as a result of the sales tax—all the taxes they pay in a variety of ways—that is fine. Most reasonable people would be prepared to accept that.

What I am saying, as convincingly as I am capable of doing, is that the minister and his cabinet colleagues have a responsibility to share the taxes they are collecting in a variety of ways from those three mining corporations, which are located in unorganized territory where neither the school board nor the municipality as a corporate entity has the ability to benefit in a direct way from the tax that is paid by those three mining corporations.

Let me quote from a newspaper item that appeared in a Thunder Bay paper last week as a result of a news conference that was called by James River Corp. in Thunder Bay. That is the major taxpayer in Marathon, and the company had somebody from its head office in Richmond, Virginia, around for support.

"James River-Marathon is adamant it is not going to give Marathon council the land it needs to build an industrial mall that would generate up to \$25,000 a year in tax revenue for the municipality.

"James River Corp., based in Richmond, Virginia, owns 80 per cent of the Marathon pulp mill, its sole Canadian facility. The mill employs 500 people in a town of 2,500.

"Last year James River-Marathon paid 71 per cent of the municipal taxes collected in the town. In 1984 the tax bite deepened to close to \$1.6 million, about \$100,000 more than in 1983. 'That's too much money,' Gerry Byrne, president of the firm's operations in this country and

manager of the mill, said at a press conference in Thunder Bay on Wednesday of last week.

"So the company which owns all of the undeveloped land in Marathon told the municipality two weeks ago it was not going to transfer the 40 acres the town wanted for the industrial park until something is done about its tax bill.

3:30 p.m.

"That jeopardizes a \$200,000 grant the Ontario government has agreed to give to the municipality if it can sell at least one lot in the proposed industrial mall by next March. Marathon reeve Springer said, 'Construction of three buildings which would be subdivided into smaller industrial units would cost up to \$2 million.'"

I suspect that half the \$200,000 referred to would come through this ministry and half would come from the federal government. Let me continue.

"At the heart of the problem is the growth caused by the development of the gold mines in the Hemlo gold fields. Springer estimates by the end of next year, Marathon's population will have mushroomed from 2,500 to 5,000 people, and by 1989 to 7,000 people."

That might be a little ambitious, but one can bet there is going to be a dramatic explosion in population in Marathon as a result of the Hemlo development.

Quoting again: "But the mines lie outside municipal boundaries and council cannot tax them. None the less, construction workers and employees rely on Marathon for essential services. The pulp mill is the only industry within the municipality and it is bearing an unfair portion of the cost of improving those services, said Byrne. 'I think it is unreasonable to expect us to subsidize the emerging industries.'" By the way, Kimberly-Clark feels the same way.

"The company"—that is, James River-Marathon—"is in the midst of a five-year, \$95-million project to modernize the mill and the competitive advantage it is gaining is being eroded by the tax bite. The \$1.6 million tax bill in 1984 translates into an overhead expense of \$10 for every ton of pulp the mill produces.

"Our efforts are directed at refurbishing the mill and making it more competitive in the long term. If we are to see our taxes double over time, I think it would place our operation in jeopardy. I think the bottom line is there. It has to be an equitable distribution of tax.' Last February, Byrne told council to begin surveying the land it needed for the industrial park and agreed to meet again to discuss the land transfer."

There we have a municipality with people knocking on its doors trying to set up little secondary-industry enterprises. They obviously need serviced land on which to do it. The land is controlled by James River Corp. We have a municipality that has the major corporate taxpayer on its back because it knows corporations are benefiting handsomely 30 miles down the road. They are getting a free ride.

It has gone to the extent that we must get an additional formula, something that will provide additional revenue. I am not talking about the resource equalization grant the minister points his finger at every time we come up with a scenario of this nature, because the resource equalization grant was started several years ago specifically to help one-industry resource towns that were asked to be the bedroom or dormitory communities for an industrial work force located elsewhere.

It was based on a resource venture, whether forestry or mining. That replaced the old mining revenue payments formula whereby the provincial government used to share on a per capita basis the revenues from these enterprises to help them over the rough spots that communities such as Manitouwadge and Marathon are encountering at present.

I quoted figures in my letter to the minister, as I did with his colleagues, to indicate how the original premise upon which the resource equalization grants were founded has become so distorted over the years that I am told there are communities in southern Ontario which, for a variety of reasons, are now getting resource equalization payments.

Our colleague the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Mr. Bennett) says that at the present time they must have another look at it, because the purpose for which that subsidy or transfer payment was intended has become so distorted over the years that they have to look for a new formula.

We have had the advice of Assistant Deputy Minister of Revenue Mr. W. J. Lettner, who has taken a look at the assessment and what the effect is of applying section 63 on all classes of taxpayers, namely residential taxpayers, class 1 and class 2 commercial taxpayers and industrial taxpayers. If we apply section 63 across the board using the same base year, we would have companies such as Kimberly-Clark paying an additional \$155,000 on top of what it already pays, close to \$2 million. We would have a similar adverse effect on James River-Marathon

Ltd. There are the three companies that are currently located at Hemlo getting a free ride.

I have talked to them and they do not consider they are getting a free ride. They say, "We are going to be paying our taxes like everybody else." Try to tell that to James River-Marathon. Try to tell it to Kimberly-Clark in Terrace Bay. They are already paying a healthy tax bite and they can see a dramatic increase as a result of the expansion caused by the Hemlo development. Try to tell it to the people.

What do I say to a Walter Groman, who is president of Kimberly-Clark in Canada? What do I tell a G. A. Byrne who is president of James River-Marathon Ltd.? Do I say, "That is fine and that is how the system works," notwithstanding the fact that we have three major mining companies on our doorstep putting on additional pressure for municipal services, whether it is water, sewers, streets, lighting, garbage collection, police protection, hospitals or education?

We know there is going to be a dramatic increase in enrolment in the schools when we get 1,000 family units coming into that area. There is going to be additional pressure for services. There are going to be additional costs. We are asking the existing taxpayers, whether they be industrial, commercial or residential to foot the bill, and the provincial and federal governments will keep their tax base.

It is estimated that over the normal life of those ore bodies, conservatively estimated to be a minimum of 20 years, the federal and provincial governments—this is just a guess but I think it is fairly close—will collect \$3 billion to \$4 billion in taxes as a result of that gold field alone; and not one penny, not one red cent will go directly into the coffers of the municipalities or that school board that is charged with the responsibility of providing not only the capital costs but also the ongoing operational costs.

3:40 p.m.

When one gets free enterprisers, entrepreneurs like the president of Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd., and more particularly, like the president of James River-Marathon Ltd., who is withholding the transfer of land from his company to the municipality just to provide these services, and when one gets threats by a municipality saying, "If you are going to be that intransigent, we might have to go the expropriation route;" that is not the way to go. That is not how one fosters good relations between municipalities and their taxpayers. It is not good for anybody. It is not good for this government. It does not make for good relations.

I have just received a breakdown of the amount Kimberly-Clark will be paying this year. In education costs for the Lake Superior Board of Education, it paid \$795,926.21 for education purposes, and for general municipal services, it paid \$1,195,860.52. They are not complaining. They appreciate that if—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What is the issue?

Mr. Stokes: I will tell you what the solution is. Is the minister saying there is no issue here?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am waiting for the issue.

Mr. Stokes: The issue is that the minister's level of government is the beneficiary directly, along with its cousins in Ottawa, of a brand new tax base that is going to swell the coffers here, along with the federal coffers in Ottawa, and not one penny of that new wealth is going to find its way directly into the coffers of the one level of government that is charged with the responsibility of providing the taxes.

I know the minister is going to say he has some figures. I had a sneak preview of them during the meeting in Thunder Bay. The minister says: "We are looking at cost-sharing assistance for water and sewage. We may help you with a few little things like that." There should be a realistic formula, so that those people who, in many ways, have the same responsibility for making decisions, for setting budgets and all the things that everybody has to know to make a decision to plan for capital projects and ongoing operating costs, may know in advance what that tax base is going to be and can plan in a realistic way.

The minister should know, if he does not, there are at least two municipalities in northern Ontario that are under supervision right now. They cannot blow their noses and they cannot spend any additional funds unless they get approval from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. I am not going to look into all the details that caused the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing to go to those municipalities and say, "We think you should put yourselves under voluntary supervision." That means that before they can spend any funds they must seek approval from a ministry of this government.

First of all, the minister said, "What is the solution?" Then he said—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I did not say, "What is the solution?" I said, "What is the issue?"

Mr. Stokes: The issue is that there is not a sufficient tax base for those municipalities that are asked to provide the services.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is not correct.

Mr. Stokes: That is what?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is not correct because there are extra funds going to these municipalities.

Mr. Stokes: I do not know that. I read the minister's opening statement very carefully. Did he think the member for London North and I were not going to raise this as a priority item on these estimates? I just cannot bring myself to believe the minister was not aware this was going to be a major topic of discussion.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: As their need arises, their need will be answered.

Mr. Stokes: All the minister is saying is that we do not need an additional formula. The status quo is just fine. "If you can find any condition where there is a need, just come to Uncle Leo and we will find the money for you." That is what the minister is saying.

He said that last year. I just notice the economic development portion of the funds that are being appropriated during these estimates for the operation of his ministry are down by \$13 million. The minister should read his own figures. He is going to come up with it; he will find it. He will go and get cabinet approval for a few hundred thousand dollars here and a few hundred thousand dollars there.

He should tell the president of James River-Marathon Ltd. that its tax bill is not going to go up by \$100,000 for education costs alone. For Kimberly-Clark of Canada Ltd., it is something in the order of \$155,000. Why does the minister think James River-Marathon Ltd. has frozen the land in the municipality of Marathon and has effectively stopped all development? It is because it says it wants a fair tax deal.

Do not take my word for it. He should get one of his minions underneath the gallery to call Gerry Byrne. If he cannot find the number, call my office and they will give it to him. Tell Gerry Byrne that he is being unreasonable and that whatever it takes to make it right, Uncle Leo will do it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Have you talked to the reeve of Marathon today?

Mr. Stokes: Not today, I have not. I do not have to talk to him today. I know the situation there almost as well as he does. If the minister talks to him today, perhaps he will share it with us. If the minister is saying everything is fine and dandy, perhaps we can convince James River-Marathon Ltd. and the Kimberly-Clarks of this world and Lac Minerals Ltd., Noranda Mines Ltd. and Teck-Corona Operating Corp., notwith-

standing the fact that they are getting a free ride with respect to their direct contribution to those municipalities where they are requiring these additional services.

If the minister does not think there is a problem, fellows like Neil Stuart and at least two other fellows from his ministry sat in on that meeting at the Valhalla a couple of weeks ago, along with representatives from the ministries of Education, Revenue and Municipal Affairs and Housing. They listened well, they all agreed there was a problem and they thought reasonable people could come up with a solution.

3:50 p.m.

The minister is sitting over there saying: "There is no issue. There is really no problem." I hope when the minister responds to my comments and I would hope when he responds to what he was told, the briefing he got from his ministry personnel at that meeting, he will at least begin to realize and admit there is a problem, because I can tell him what Gerry Byrne said.

Let me repeat what Gerry Byrne said. He said, "I do feel it would be irresponsible for us to continue the way we have been, turning over land without getting some indication of a more equitable distribution of tax. I do not call that holding the municipality up as a pawn. I call that a business decision that relates directly to the viability of a mill and 500 jobs."

The government could tax them. This is a story it uses every time we over here say, "We do not think we are getting fair economic rent as a result of the exploitation of a specific resource." The government says, "Come on, you socialists, you are trying to tax them out of business." That is what the government is doing. Maybe it is getting enough economic rent from those three companies, but if it is, it should share it with the two levels of government, the municipality and the school board, that are charged with the responsibility of providing the services. There is the minister's issue and there is his responsibility.

Let me talk about another issue, which is a real northern issue, that has now become the responsibility of the minister's friends in Ottawa. He does not have Pierre Elliott Trudeau, Lloyd Axworthy and all that gang to kick around any more. He has Brian Mulroney and all his colleagues who are responsible for co-ordinating programs that have an effect on the lives of people generally.

The minister will know the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp., through the Department of Supply and Services at the federal level, is the

one agency of government that is charged with the responsibility of guaranteeing or ensuring mortgages for people across the country. If one cannot get money directly from one of the conventional lending institutions, or even if one can get money from them, they look for a guarantee from an agency such as the CMHC. Under normal circumstances, they will guarantee a mortgage of up to 90 per cent, but if one happens to live in a community such as Manitouwadge or Marathon, basically a one-industry resource town, one cannot get that guarantee. One can only get a 75 per cent guarantee.

That is the way it was up until six or eight weeks ago when I drew it to the attention of the then minister responsible, the Hon. Charles Lapointe. He has been relieved of his duties and we now have a new minister. He is a minister from Quebec, but his name escapes me. I can tell the minister that not only has the CMHC said to those people who are asking for a loan guarantee, "We will up it a little bit and extend it over 25 years as opposed to 20," but it has said to employees of James River-Marathon Ltd., "We are going to treat you in the same way when you come to us for the guarantee of a loan as we would somebody whose livelihood is dependent upon a nonrenewable or a finite resource, such as our minerals and our precious metal wealth."

That is one of things that has upset Mr. Byrne so profoundly. He asks, "Why should we be treated as second-class citizens just because we choose to make our living in a community such as Marathon?" I understand the new administration in Ottawa is looking at it and saying: "We agree. There is an inequitable situation here. We cannot treat people in Marathon or Manitouwadge differently from those living in Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto or Montreal."

But the present policy does that. It discriminates against the people we are trying to attract to those communities, as I said earlier, to develop the new wealth that is of such tremendous benefit for employment to the area and in a tax way—let me get back to it again—to the provincial coffers, the consolidated revenue fund here and the Treasury in Ottawa. Why are they being discriminated against?

I know that Ernie Lane from the ministry—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They have a copy of our letter.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, that is right. But now that the minister has his friends with whom he thinks he can co-operate much more closely, he does have a responsibility to follow up now, not with

the Charles Lapointes of this world but with his friends in Ottawa. We think it is a reasonable request. The minister is nodding in assent; he must think it is a reasonable request.

Let us get on with the job of protecting the interests of people who live in one-industry towns in northern Ontario so they get the same consideration as anybody else living in an urban setting. I will say no more about that. If the minister's remarks are not what I would like them to be, we can pursue it during the vote.

I want to deal specifically with one other item. I wrote a letter to the minister on September 17, almost a month ago, based on a letter I received from a Mr. Morley Wiseman, co-ordinator of the Northern Light Lake road petition. It was signed by more than 600 users. I sent a copy of that and I released a copy of my letter to the minister to the press. Eight days after I mailed it the minister was buttonholed, and he said: "I have not received the letter yet. When I receive it I will respond to it." Unless our own interoffice mailing services are just preposterous, I cannot believe somebody in the ministry would not have received a copy of the letter eight days after I sent it.

4 p.m.

I still do not have a response from the minister, but I can say that the people who use that road are less than happy, because it is primarily the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources to maintain the road, but that ministry says that the dollars with which to do it come from the Ministry of Northern Affairs. This is what these people learned from the Ministry of Natural Resources:

"About \$47,000 was earmarked in 1984 to maintain the Northern Light Lake road, the same as in 1983. The supervisor of the Ministry of Natural Resources engineering service department said he does not expect more in 1985.

"No. As a matter of fact, the trend is that we are in a period of restraint and have been for a number of years.' So says Gerry Frenette," who is obviously from the Ministry of Natural Resources. "In fact, Natural Resources has taken money allocated for the care of other roads, such as the Wolf River and March Lake roads, to bolster the amount used to maintain the Northern Light Lake road."

The petition of which I provided a copy to the minister tells very graphically what is faced by the people who have to use that road on a regular basis. It is rough, it is washboardy, it is dangerous and it is not worthy of any government to lay claim to the responsibility for the

management of that road. The conditions explained in the petition are so inadequate that the minister cannot say the ministry does not have the money. The ministry has to come up with the money.

I do not know what the minister replied in the letter he signed today, but if he took the time to read the petitions or if his ministry officials in Thunder Bay took the time to go out and look at the road or at least to contact the people who caused me to bring it to the minister's attention in the first place, he could come to only one conclusion as the Minister of Northern Affairs responsible for the road system.

He does not have to be physically carrying out the work, but by setting the priorities, whether for new capital projects or by way of extraordinary maintenance as is required here, he could come to only one conclusion. If he cannot find that conclusion within the amount he is asking for in these estimates, then he should go to Management Board of Cabinet for the additional funds. If he needs a letter, he has my support and that of anybody else who uses that road. Those people will be willing to provide him with the necessary documentation and convincing material so that he will only come to one conclusion, but he must come up with the necessary funds to do that.

What is the minister going to do to meet his commitment to something this important to the people of Thunder Bay and all the people in northwestern Ontario who use Thunder Bay as a service centre?

About two weeks ago I had the pleasure of attending a reception when Domtar Packaging in Red Rock was making a sizeable contribution, so much a year over the next five years, to the Lakehead auditorium. Funds were made available through Wintario. There was a sizeable amount committed and paid by the former government in Ottawa, and Dr. Charlie Johnston and his committee are very actively involved in a fund-raising campaign.

I see the Minister of Citizenship and Culture (Ms. Fish) is looking through her desk. She visited the site a few weeks ago. I hope she is writing a letter in response to the minister and knows, endorses and applauds the efforts of the people in Thunder Bay to get a 1,500-seat auditorium that would serve the people of Thunder Bay and the people in the area well. There are communities such as Red Rock committing so much on a per capita basis. There are industries such as Domtar doing likewise.

Even if they realize by way of local fund-raising all that they think can be realistically expected, I am told by Charlie Johnston, who is a good friend of the minister, that there will still be a shortfall. He asked me to ask the minister directly, specifically and as convincingly as I know how when he is going to take a direct interest in what they are doing and what the colour of his money is going to be. I cannot make it any blunter than that.

The minister knows how convincing little Charlie Johnston can be. I promised him I would bring it to the minister's attention, and I fully intended to do that when I got down here on Tuesday morning, only to find that our estimates were front and centre. I thought there was no better opportunity, when everybody was listening to me in the House, to pass on that message from Charlie to the minister: "Let us see the colour of his money."

I want to know where the minister stands on the resolution that was sponsored by my colleague the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds). I should probably know this; if my colleague the member for Port Arthur were in the House now, I would ask him directly how the Minister of Northern Affairs voted on his resolution which asked in effect that the legitimate cost of travel for essential medical services be a legitimate charge against the Ontario health insurance plan. As I recall, the minister was not in the House.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What? I was.

Mr. Stokes: Did the minister vote in favour?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I surely did.

Mr. Stokes: Congratulations; I commend the minister.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Was the member for Lake Nipigon here?

Mr. Stokes: Yes, I was.

Mr. Laughren: However, in order that he not be hypocritical, why does he not bring it in now?

The Deputy Chairman: The honourable member will defer to other honourable members at the appropriate time in the appropriate way.

Mr. Laughren: You must admit I was using the right words.

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Mr. Stokes: The minister will know that members of this caucus from northern Ontario have circulated a letter based on that resolution that was passed quite convincingly by a majority of the members of this House in a free vote. When my colleague the member for Port Arthur pursued it with the Minister of Health (Mr.

Norton), he said: "Have you any idea what that would cost? I dare say it would cost anywhere from \$50 million to \$70 million." That being the case, he said: "I would not place it high on my list of priorities. There are a dozen and one things I would do if I had the money." He always pleads poverty, although he is spending well in excess of \$6 billion a year.

4:10 p.m.

Hearing the way we raise in the House these matters that have convinced us, the minister knows we simply must come up with some kind of relief for families who spend literally thousands of dollars a year to transport their families to centres where there is the necessary treatment for essential medical services. When he reads his constituency problems, I am sure the minister comes up with incidents and cases where he knows there is a definite need.

Over the past 18 months, the minister has said that he personally and his ministry were going to withdraw from the economic and infrastructure issues and devote more of their time, energy and resources to the social issues. But other than the matter of extended care beds, I do not think there is an issue of more concern than the cost of necessary travel to essential medical services that are located elsewhere.

Mr. Laughren: The minister misled people; he did that with that telex.

The Deputy Chairman: Order. There is one honourable member here who is making certain statements that are off the record and should not even be said, and now he is making statements I wish I had not heard. Perhaps he will allow the member for Lake Nipigon to speak rather than make these interjections.

Mr. Stokes: The minister is the most important minister and his is the most important ministry in terms of the delivery of programs and services to northern Ontarians. I want to know where they stand on the cost of travel for medical services being a legitimate charge against the Ontario health insurance plan.

Mr. Wildman: He is supposed to co-ordinate services, is he not?

Mr. Stokes: That is what he tells us. I want an update on the extended care bed program, which was announced in the budget of 1982, almost two and a half years ago. I know we are going to get approval for Geraldton, Atikokan, Sioux Lookout, Dryden and maybe Smooth Rock Falls. But, even though the program was announced almost two and a half years ago, we cannot point

specifically to one extended care bed in any of those five locations.

My colleague the member for Algoma (Mr. Wildman) perhaps is more up on this—on his behalf, I raised a particular situation dealing with the need in Wawa—but I am told there are 42 other locations now on the list, or is it 28 or 29?

I want to find out what is holding up delivery of these extended care beds, which were critical in 1982. The minister should go into those communities now; the problem has reached crisis proportions. Where does the minister stand with regard to facilitating the provision of extended care beds? Where does he stand with regard to the cost of travel for essential medical services?

Where does the minister stand with regard to Hydro rates, seasonal rates and time-of-use rates? There has been a considerable dichotomy between Ontario Hydro and the Ontario Municipal Electric Association. Most of the utilities in the north are not convinced that any change from the existing rate structure, such as a seasonal, time-of-use or time-of-day rate, would be completely acceptable to all municipalities and all municipal electrical utilities in the north.

If my memory serves me correctly, the minister said something about that when this problem raised its ugly head some two years ago. It was put on hold. Now one has the sense that it is back on the front burner again, and if we northerners sit passively by, we will wake up one morning to find the formula has been changed to the detriment of hydro consumers in northern Ontario.

The member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) carried the can on that on one occasion and became very irate that Ontario Hydro would even think of doing that to northerners. What did he call it, "Fascist economics"? He used some very uncomplimentary epithet. I know the minister felt very strongly about that issue here a year or so ago, but I have not heard anything from him on that very important topic.

The minister has been very active in concert with his colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) in the old "highways in the sky" program. I think that phrase was coined by Irwin Haskett when he was the Minister of Transport. That program has worked very well as far as it has gone. It has not had as much effect as I thought it would have, or I hoped it would have, in bringing down the cost of travel for passengers in the far north or the cost of delivering goods and materials and equipment to the far north.

4:20 p.m.

I am not an economist, nor am I an expert on rate structure, but I would have thought that as a result of the expenditure of funds for the northern airstrips, there would have been a reduction in the cost of transportation because we could get bigger payloads and because we could have literally all-weather transportation in the north, as opposed to what was the case when we did not have any airstrips; which is still the case in areas where we do not have airstrips where there are problems with freeze-up and breakup. One has to operate on skis in the winter and floats in the summer.

For a lot of communities in the north that is no longer the case. One can get in with Hercules aircraft, with DC-3s, 748s and all of the smaller types of aircraft and one is almost assured, depending on extreme weather conditions, of year-round flying.

Because we now have those new airstrips, one could argue that the increases in the cost of transportation have not been as dramatic as they would have been without them. That is a legitimate thing to say, but one wonders who is benefiting from this well-intentioned and well-meaning program, one I have advocated for years and one the minister himself has advocated for years, and we cannot knock it. One wonders who the beneficiaries are.

One wonders if perhaps the Hudson's Bay Co. may have been the greatest beneficiary. I cannot prove they were, but when the minister did his analysis of the high costs of goods and transportation in the north, I do not remember whether it said who were the major beneficiaries. I think they said: "The situation is less than ideal. We have to look for better ways of doing things, but it is better than it was." We all admit that. Any fair-minded person would admit it is better than it was.

The thing that bothers me more than anything else is the fact that the minister used to try to allocate funds in such a way that he would begin the construction of an airstrip at two locations each building year. That was great. A lot of people said it was not fast enough, but to be realistic, there is only so much that can be done in one year. That was working well. I know I have had several applications in recent weeks and months for strips to areas that are still not served. I know the minister gets them too.

I am told the ministry is now going to build only one every two years. Instead of two starts every year, there is going to be one start every two years.

I sent the minister a very convincing letter from Kingfisher Lake. Did you approve it?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes.

Mr. Stokes: You have not gone public with it. You have not shared it with me.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: You should get a copy of the letter.

Mr. Stokes: If you did, I am pleased.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I made a personal visit to Kingfisher.

Mr. Stokes: Were you impressed?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Certainly, I was.

Mr. Stokes: I went out of my way to make the minister aware of what was going on up there, along with his colleagues, the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope) and the Minister of Education.

Quite often people such as myself come down here and are purveyors of doom and gloom and all the things we are accused of, but I am probably the most optimistic person in this Legislature. Whenever I see something useful, productive and worthwhile happening, I like to tell people about it. That is what I attempted to do in this case. If there was ever a community that we could use as a model for economic and social development anywhere in Canada or anywhere in the world, the community of Kingfisher Lake is it.

I cannot get a copy of it, but I am told there was a study done by the federal Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development. They did a case study of Kingfisher Lake and the federal government is now sharing that—I am not sure whether it is through Canadian University Service Overseas or whether it is the Canadian International Development Agency—but it is using the experience in Kingfisher Lake to assist communities and countries in the Third World that are interested in helping themselves.

This was a case of a community that bought out the Hudson Bay store that was accumulating all of the funds that were generated in that community. Prior to that, 82 per cent of the funds went out of the community. None of the money that went into that community ever stayed there. As a result of their ability to retain that money by taking over the Hudson Bay store, they have been able to purchase their own diesel generators, to build their own distribution system and wire their own houses.

They are doing it for half of the cost of what Ontario Hydro would have to charge in order to meet the existing formula. They have also been able to build their own laundromat and make it a

profitable venture. They have their own communal garden, even though the frost-free days up there are much shorter than anything that would be acceptable down here. They have their own coffee shop. They have generated their own funds to get their own satellite for getting television signals. They are in the process of building their own church from their own resources, using their own local labour. They have the best library I have ever seen in any community north of the 51st parallel.

I am sure the minister must have been impressed if he went around and saw that. I would hope the minister would take advantage of the first opportunity to tell his colleagues down here, as I try to do at every opportunity available to me, that there are some good things happening in the north. When good things are happening in the north, we think people in the south should hear about them.

It is fine to go up there and see them. I am glad the minister has availed himself of the opportunity to do that. I do not mind him going into my riding because there are some good things happening in my riding.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: All I do is good things for you—develop, promote.

Mr. Stokes: Come on now. The minister cannot take credit for anything that happened in Kingfisher.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will take credit for the Kingfisher airport.

Mr. Stokes: When the minister builds it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I made the decision and I am putting up the money.

Mr. Stokes: Who urged the minister to do so?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I want to make a point about the Kingfisher airport—

The Deputy Chairman: A point of what?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Just to interrupt for one minute.

The Deputy Chairman: Is this a point of order?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, it is. It is a point of order just to straighten the record.

The Deputy Chairman: Point of information.
4:30 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Kingfisher was on the list to have an airstrip three, four or five years ago.

Mr. Foulds: What took you so long?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Does the member want to know why? I will tell him why. Because they wrote me and said they did not want an airstrip

because they were concerned about the impact it would have on their community. They said, "We will not have an airport at this time, but we will be back to you." They came back to us and, with the support of the local member, the decision was made to get on with it.

Mr. Foulds: He did it. The member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) did it at the appropriate time.

The Deputy Chairman: I am not having much effect on the honourable member's efforts to control himself. Please try.

Mr. Stokes: The facts are essentially as I have enumerated them. The point I am trying to make is that if the minister has already told them they are going to get it, Noah Winter is going to be very pleased and Chief Sakakeep is going to be very pleased.

I am glad the minister took the trouble to go there and see for himself. There are some good things going on. Let us tell people down here that when one sees something working well, to use the phrase of the minister's colleague a little earlier, "Let us emulate that." That is what the Minister of Education said a little earlier. Let us have more of that. That is what I am saying.

More important, I see an opportunity for the minister to co-ordinate in a much more meaningful and productive way some of the things he knows will work well, much more so than will the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling). Why do I mention the member for Carleton-Grenville? The minister winced and said, "What has that got to do with the north?"

Does the minister know what the member for Carleton-Grenville is supposed to do? As the Provincial Secretary for Resources Development, he is the one person in this assembly who is more responsible than any other for co-ordinating programs that might have some relevance to our first citizens. The minister did not even know that or it never occurred to him.

I am not going to suggest we should wipe out provincial secretariats for Social Development, Resources Development and Justice; the government has to find something for the provincial secretaries to do. I think his responsibility for co-ordinating between the federal and provincial government the programs that have an effect on the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of our first citizens should be with the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The minister might have to draw some lines. Let me give the minister a specific example. He sets the priorities and requests the funds for transportation in all areas north of the French

River. Once he has done that, he calls in the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to do the work, cause the work to be done and make sure it is done so that we get the biggest bang for our buck.

We have a situation at Fort Hope which is the case in many areas of the north. There is a scarcity of good gravel, good aggregate, to maintain the airstrips and road structures on reserves. If that were the case down here, they would say, "We will haul it from five, 10, or 20 miles away," but there are no roads. Once a supply of gravel to maintain those airstrips and a minimal kind of road structure to allow people to get from one place to another on a reserve is exhausted, they scratch like chickens to get sufficient gravel to maintain airstrips at Big Trout Lake and Fort Hope.

Fort Hope asked the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to help identify a source of good gravel and to access it. The Minister of Transportation and Communications says, "We have only X number of dollars and we do not have funds in our ministry to access a good supply of gravel on an esker that is about 10 miles away from the existing airstrip, but if you can come up with some dollars to build a Bailey bridge or something such as that, we will assist you in accessing the gravel to maintain the airstrip."

We have never been able to convince the federal authorities that they perhaps have some responsibility for co-ordinating that kind of program, because the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and the Department of National Health and Welfare have a need for gravel in those communities. I have paraded these problems to a series of ministers in Ottawa who were responsible for Indian and northern affairs.

We now have a guy by the name of David Crombie. He is a likeable, jovial, responsive little guy who has a social conscience. If he knew the situation and wanted to call me and come for a trip, that would be fine and dandy. I would be prepared to give him whatever time it took to show him around and explain the facts of life as they pertain to his new responsibilities.

However, the minister could do that. That is why I would like to see the minister personally, for as long as he has those responsibilities, be given the opportunity to co-ordinate those programs, particularly now that he has kissing cousins in the right places.

It is something that has not happened in a good, long while. There is a new day dawning,

for whatever length of time the minister has that mandate and for whatever length of time they have that mandate. It may only be a honeymoon, but he should take advantage of it. The people in the north will thank him for it. It is a wonderful opportunity. If Tories, generally, are of a mind to do things when they have a real opportunity to do them, the opportunities were never more obvious than they are now.

4:40 p.m.

I think there is another way in which the minister can co-ordinate. I could name a number of specific instances, but I am going to use only one for the purpose of making my point. The minister will know there is an arrangement among the Ontario government, Ontario Hydro and the Niagara Parks Commission whereby the funds that accrue to the Ontario government as a result of the water rentals that Ontario Hydro pays on a horsepower basis do not go into the consolidated revenue fund of the province but go directly into the coffers of the Niagara Parks Commission in order to provide it with funding over and above what it is able to generate locally as a result of its operations, concessions and everything else.

I think anybody who goes to Niagara Falls is very proud of what we have there. It attracts hundreds of thousands of tourists every year, and where would the economy of Niagara Falls and the surrounding area be without it? Everybody applauds that and everybody thinks it is a legitimate use of public funds to do that, even though it is almost a direct transfer from Ontario Hydro through the water rentals to the Niagara Parks Commission for that very worthwhile purpose.

But when we in the north come up with a similar situation—I am talking about setting up a Nipigon parkway commission—Ontario Hydro pays directly into the consolidated revenue fund of this province and the government about \$1 million a year. What if one were to set up a commission that would be charged with the responsibility of taking advantage of the natural attributes that this area has to offer by way of its fishing, its boating, its aesthetic beauty and its development of trails—all the things people like to do when they go on a vacation?

The minister mentioned Minaki Lodge here the other day and what a wonderful boon it is to the economy of the Kenora-Minaki area. The minister says that what has been done in Minaki has acted as a catalyst to provide a different experience for people who would like to travel to that part of Ontario, a good place to spend their

money, a good place to relax, a good place for recreation. I am not going to argue with that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Always very supportive of Minaki.

Mr. Stokes: Does the minister want to talk about that?

Mr. Haggerty: Was he there to cut the ribbon?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: He was the only member who was.

Mr. Stokes: I thoroughly enjoyed myself at Minaki. I was invited to the official opening of Minaki and I journeyed by norOntair from Thunder Bay to Atikokan, Fort Frances and Dryden. We finally landed at Kenora and then we were ferried by another aircraft that took us into the airstrip at Minaki. That was great. We said, "That is fine, but how will we get back?" They said: "No problem, pas de problème. We will have an aircraft when all the festivities are over and we will fly you directly from the airstrip at Minaki back to Thunder Bay." I said, "Great, they have thought of everything and they have done it up brown." We wanted for nothing.

We got on the aircraft and there were Tories on that aircraft until even hell would not have them. Even Bill Clarke, who is head of field aviation, was there and Brian O'Brien. I thought, "Gee, this is great." About two months after I got home, I got a bill for \$57 and change.

Mr. Haggerty: He was not a Tory.

Mr. Stokes: I paid for it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was a Tory minister who made it right.

Mr. Stokes: The minister did not make it right.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The chairman, Mr. Boyer, was supposed to call the member. He assured me he would call and straighten that matter out.

Mr. Stokes: He did not.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will follow that up.

Mr. Stokes: He said: "I have heard through the grapevine about four members who have responsibilities for the north, namely, Rainy River, Kenora, Lake Nipigon and Cochrane North. You will be reimbursed, so what are you beefing about?"

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Nobody told me.

Mr. Stokes: That is the way it happened. There are folks in the north and then there are people in the north, and sometimes the folks are not as good as the people.

I resented that because there was a friend of both of us who was on that aircraft. I thought it was very strange and I phoned him up—I will not embarrass him by mentioning his name. I will tell the minister who it was privately if he wants. I asked him, "Did you get a bill for that flight from Minaki?" He said in surprise, "No, did you?" I said, "Yes, I did." He said, "I want to assure you I did not get one. When I am invited, I expect to be taken to the place and brought back home." It did not happen that way. All I am saying to the minister is sometimes they carry it just a little bit too far.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It was just an oversight.

Mr. Stokes: This minister does not operate in that way and I am the first one to say so. In this case, it was Fred Boyer.

Mr. Foulds: Is he a member of the Legislature?

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Stokes: No. He is with the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation.

We were talking about the benefits that accrue as a result of a Minaki. The minister knows what the situation is with a dormitory community such as Nipigon. If we ever lost Domtar in Red Rock, what would happen to Red Rock? What would happen to Nipigon? What would happen to Dorion and Hurkett? We have an opportunity to broaden the economic base and we have a perfect vehicle for doing it.

The minister knows the Nipigon area. If he does not know it, he should call Ethel Douglas and she will tell him about it. The minister knows the tremendous tourism potential in the Lake Nipigon watershed. What are we doing about it? We cannot even get a fingerboard on Highway 11 that points to Lake Nipigon.

They tell me there is a waste disposal site just east of Beardmore where people say, "If you go a little bit farther, you will find a road that leads to Lake Nipigon." They tell me we have the best-traveled waste disposal dump anywhere in North America for people looking for access to Lake Nipigon.

Yesterday afternoon when I was in Beardmore, I was told they have tried everything to get the Ministry of Transportation and Communications to allow them to put up a little fingerboard with a little arrow on the end of it pointing towards Lake Nipigon. I am told they cannot get one. I cannot believe this and am going to pursue it with Bill Neilipovitz and all the people I normally call for these things.

There must be some truth in it, however. Why have we not got a sign saying, "Follow this road and you will get to Lake Nipigon"? All one has to do is look at a map to know how significant Lake Nipigon is. It is the economic wellbeing of the people in the area. Why can we not use the concept of a Lake Nipigon parkway to develop cruiser service, all the resorts in the area and the wonderful fishing?

The world's largest speckled trout was caught right there by Dr. Cooke. They are still getting beautiful fish out of that lake. If we play our cards right, it will be a fishery that everybody will be able to enjoy from now until kingdom come, but we need some kind of a catalyst to do that.

Does the minister know we have a provincial park on the east side of Lake Nipigon? It used to be called Black Sands Provincial Park. They did not think that was a very juicy name, so they called it Lake Nipigon Provincial Park. Does the minister know what his colleague the Minister of Natural Resources is doing now? He has it up for lease or privatization. He is putting it out to the public sector and washing his hands of it. That is how interested the government is in fostering tourism and economic development in the Nipigon area.

I wrote to the minister, to his colleague the former Minister of Natural Resources and the present Minister of Tourism and Recreation and to two or three other ministers. The Minister of Northern Affairs said, "Yes, my people will look into it and in due course we will get back to you." Nothing happened.

What do I say to people? The Minister of Northern Affairs is the one minister who caught on to the idea of spending \$40 million to develop Minaki Lodge and provide access to Minaki—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Let the record show that is \$20 million.

Mr. Stokes: —with golf courses, an airstrip and everything else. All I am asking is why the minister is not looking at what I think is a really good concept to do essentially the same thing, when it is that much more rugged, there is that much more water and the opportunities are that much greater. If the minister thought there were opportunities at Minaki, he should come with me and I will take him on a trip on Lake Nipigon. I will show him what it is all about.

We have a new economic development committee in Nipigon.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Supported by the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Mr. Stokes: That is right. The government gave it \$20,000 to set the ball rolling. All I am

saying is that I think the minister or somebody he delegated could act as a catalyst and persuade his counterparts that it is worth while to redirect those water rentals from Ontario Hydro for this express purpose. There is a direct link. As a result of the impounding of water, the manipulation of water levels, there is an effect on the ecology and the environment around.

Some people would say it has a deleterious effect on the spawning beds for pickerel and trout. I have not been able to prove or disprove that. But the fact is Hydro is there—and the minister knows what happened on Lac Seul many years ago, the flooding out of miles and miles of a good timber and tree area. He knows what happened with the flooding out of graveyards—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is all looked after.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, I know it is. Any time you have human intervention such as that of Ontario Hydro, it does have an impact. So it would be poetic justice if we said: "We benefit from the payment of water rentals as a result of the use of this water to generate this electricity. Let us put something back." I think it is an excellent opportunity for the minister to do just that.

There is only one other thing I want to bring to the minister's attention. He will know that he has been pressured by railroaders and other concerned people about the notion of these cabooselless trains. I think he has said he does not buy that; he supports retaining the caboose. I know the Conservative candidate in the last federal election took that position, and I cannot see those people being at odds with one another on this. I know everybody feels it is of sufficient import that we make these trains as safe as is humanly possible.

I want to put on the record the position of the former federal Minister of Transport. I want to quote a letter that was sent to a former member of the House of Commons. He is not in that position any more. I will not embarrass him by using his name; he is having enough problems right now. This is a letter that was sent to him and is signed by Lloyd Axworthy, the former Minister of Transport:

"Thank you for your letter of May 28, 1984, concerning railway applications to operate trains without cabooses. I appreciate receiving your comments on this letter.

"CN and CP have made joint application to the railway transport committee of the Canadian Transport Commission for approval to operate cabooselless trains. This action follows extensive testing of the end-of-train units by both railways.

"While I understand your concerns with regard to safety, tests have proven that the use of end-of-train devices, together with detection equipment such as hot-box detectors and dragging equipment detectors, are far more reliable and efficient means of ensuring safe railway operations than tail-end crew surveillance from cabooses. Also, the removal of cabooses would completely eliminate the numerous slack-action injuries to crews in cabooses that occur each year.

"I would point out that I support the efforts of the railways to improve their efficiency and productivity through the introduction of new technology.

5 p.m.

"With regard to CN rail, the railway unions have long recognized CN's right to introduce technological, operational and organizational changes that improve efficiency and enhance productivity, thus permitting the company to remain competitive.

"CN is in competition with CP Ltd. and other railways, the trucking industry and, to some extent, water carriers for a share of the freight transportation market. To maintain its competitive position and provide better service at competitive prices, CN must continue to seek ways to improve its operation.

"The company is, therefore, pursuing several programs in an effort to improve productivity and efficiency and reduce costs. These changes are of a technological, organizational and operational nature involving the introduction of technological advances and managerial innovations.

"Provisions have been negotiated between CN and the unions to protect employees adversely affected by these changes. These are included in the collective agreement. Additional items arising from the repositioning of employees from the caboose to the locomotive would be the subject of further negotiations with the union should the CTC grant approval for cabooseless train operations.

"I assure you that I am deeply concerned about the hardships that staff adjustments may cause the affected employees. I have written to the chief executive officers of the crown corporations that report to Parliament through me, asking that they consult with municipal authorities concerning their employment possibilities, such as alternative employment opportunities."

In other words, he is throwing the responsibility on to the municipalities.

"I hope that these efforts may help alleviate the problems while allowing CN to continue to

operate as a commercially viable enterprise. You may be assured that all the relevant factors regarding the operation of cabooseless trains will be taken into consideration before a decision is made.

"Sincerely yours, Lloyd Axworthy."

I know what the minister's position is on it. I know what the position of any knowledgeable person is on it. I know how our colleague the Minister of Transportation and Communications feels about it. Before the operation of cabooseless trains becomes a reality, I hope we individually and collectively take every opportunity made available to us to say how strongly we feel about this issue. I hope we can, notwithstanding the position taken by the former minister, Lloyd Axworthy.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: A good private member's bill.

Mr. Stokes: A good private member's bill might do the trick. Who is high on the list? I know I am about 58th on the list.

This is of great importance to people in Sioux Lookout, Nakina, Hornepayne, Capreol—any place where we have railway terminals. It is equally important along the north shore and the CP railway line.

We can beat this thing, but we have to stick together on it. I hope we can enlist the support of the Liberal caucus both here and in Ottawa. That is the only way we are going to beat it. I thought it was important in terms of the feedback I and the minister have been getting from the north. I thought I should put it on the record.

We have a battle on our hands. We can beat it, but we have to do it collectively. That is all I have to say at the moment.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, perhaps I can respond to my critics, who up to a point have made a contribution and an examination of my ministry. I have made some notes that I will refer to as I go through the various items.

I can start with the remarks made by my colleague the member for London North. First, I must express my appreciation. His presentation was documented; it was written out, albeit I think by some research person in southern Ontario. I believe this was copied from some of the local press in southern Ontario. Nevertheless, I think it is a good effort; it covered a broad range.

I only wish I had the opportunity to take the member for London North home with me on the weekend to see northern Ontario and to get a real feel for what the north is all about. This weekend would have been beautiful, with the colour and

the aroma. The fall colours are in full bloom. It was a fantastic—

Mr. Foulds: That is cruel and unusual punishment. Take him back to Sioux Lookout or Hudson Bay. The country is wonderful, but having to put up with the minister—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They will; they have for a few years and they are going to for a few more years. I continue to live there, unlike the new federal member for Kenora-Rainy River, who traipsed up and down the riding during three successive elections and said he would live in the riding just like the member for Kenora does.

Mr. Foulds: No, he did not. He never said that.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, he did. He said: "I will live in the riding. I will not do like the Liberal-Labour member, John Reid, did and move to Ottawa." Does my friend know what happened two days after the federal election? His house went up for sale. However, he cannot live in Ottawa because the housing is too expensive. He has to move to Hull, Quebec.

Anyway, I intend to live in northern Ontario; I have lived there up until now and I will continue to. I want to bring more of these fellows up with me so they will not have to write documents like this. They could speak from the heart. They would get the real feel of what the north is all about. I know he is at a disadvantage. I have to say that.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I want to interject and say that if one follows that line of reasoning, one would have to assume that the only person who could be a Health critic would be a doctor and that a critic of the Attorney General would have to be a lawyer. That is really stretching a point.

I do not think the minister does Ontarians or the north any good by making reference to me every time as someone from southern Ontario. He persists in doing what isolationists do; that is, he drives a wedge between the north and the south. We are all Ontarians, let me remind him of that.

Mr. Chairman: I do not know whether that is a point of order. It is a point of debate.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: In a very subtle way I was complimenting the member for his efforts. He is working with a handicap because his party does not have a member in northern Ontario. He is working from a handicapped position, and I admire his efforts. I merely wanted to say that. He touched on all the very sensitive issues.

Mr. Wildman: Is that why the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) is from Don Mills? The Tories do not have anybody from the rural areas?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There might be some interesting times ahead.

Mr. Chairman: Let us return to the minister's response—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I was interested in listening to the member's comments about the status quo or the situation in northern Ontario. He referred many times to the 41 years that this government has looked after the affairs of this province from Kenora right to Windsor and Ottawa. I think we have done it exceptionally well. The people of this province have returned us on every occasion in those 41 years. We have enjoyed three or four different Premiers who have excelled in a very responsive, sensitive and compassionate way that has kept us in office.

When one thinks that today we have something like 10 of the 15 members in northern Ontario, it seems to me we must be doing the right things on behalf of northern Ontario. We must be doing the right things to get the constant return of a person such as the member for Algoma-Manitoulin (Mr. Lane). He is constantly returned because he is doing the right thing and answering the needs of northern Ontario.

Mr. Piché: They will return the member for Cochrane North a million times—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We have another gentleman over here who will be constantly returned because we are sensitive and responsible. We have a compassionate feeling for the areas we represent.

I cannot accept the total condemnation by the member that we are not doing a job in northern Ontario. I cannot accept it because I think the proof is in the pudding. The proof is in the number of excellent members we have here from northern Ontario. In fact, any one of those members could be the next Premier or the next leader of this party.

Mr. Foulds: Except the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope).

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am very proud to be part of this government and I am very proud of the results and the track record of this government in northern Ontario. There is no question about it; we have excelled.

As I go on an annual basis and meet my confrères from other provinces, the other ministers responsible for development in northern parts of provinces, I am more proud of

our efforts than I have been in the past, just to compare notes, to see what we are doing in northern Ontario compared to northern Manitoba, northern Saskatchewan and northern Alberta.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Since this is so important, I think we should have a quorum present.

Mr. Chairman ordered the bells to be rung.

5:15 p.m.

Assistant Clerk: Mr. Chairman, a quorum is present.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I will continue now that we have some more interested members present. It is always encouraging. There were two members of the opposition in the gallery.

The member for London North made some comment with respect to the economy of northern Ontario. I want to point out to him that because we in northern Ontario are so resource-oriented, the policies of the federal government have a direct bearing on the long-range economic problems of northern Ontario. It was obvious to us on this side of the House that the policies and programs of the Trudeau era added to the aggravation we have in northern Ontario.

I also want to point out the thrust taken by the Ontario government with respect to one a very major segment of the economic base in northern Ontario, the pulp and paper industry. I regret the member did not make reference to the program that was announced by the former Treasurer, the member for Muskoka (Mr. F. S. Miller), whereby the employment development fund would pump in excess of \$160 million into the pulp and paper industry in northern Ontario.

A month or so ago, I was very interested to hear the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. do a documentary on the situation of the pulp and paper industry in northern Ontario and to hear that corporation and its reporters compliment the Ontario government. They said emphatically that this program has provided security and a world-competitive position for the pulp and paper industry in northern Ontario for the next 25 years. For the CBC to say that—

Mr. Foulds: I want the minister to table the transcript. I do not doubt the minister's words, but the CBC said that?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They said it. I wanted it on the record.

Mr. Foulds: Is the minister sure?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes. I heard it. If the CBC can give it that kind of recognition, then I am sure

the members across the way should be recognizing that too. I am sure every member in northern Ontario has felt the effects of that program, which has provided job security for many of our people working in the wood industry. That is just one small example of what a major program can do in our area.

Mr. Haggerty: What happened to the private sector?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The private sector? In the town of Dryden alone, we put in \$30 million and Great Lakes Forest Products Ltd. put in \$350 million; that is about 10 per cent.

Mr. Haggerty: But how much of it went out when Reed went out?

The Deputy Chairman: Order.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: The member for London North also made a comment about the Hydro rates—

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I do not like to interrupt the minister, but I am not clear. He began his response by indicating a relationship between the federal and provincial governments. He indicated that things were not right with the economy in northern Ontario and that it might have been as a result of federal programs.

5:20 p.m.

If that is what the minister is suggesting, I wonder whether he would care to elaborate on the statement he made on page 13. Of his 34 pages of comments, I can find only a page or so related to the forest industry. I do not find any reference to that \$160-million project, which he is now speaking of in glowing terms.

I am glad my comments at least prodded him to say something. However, I am wondering whether he is totally condemning the federal government or whether his comments on page 13 are intended to be a supplementary compliment to it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, the point I was trying to make was that the federal policies with respect to the economy of our country as a whole have had an effect on northern Ontario because we are a resource-based area of this country. The very poor policies, the poor programs the federal government has had in effect over the last 16 years during the Trudeau era have had their effect on northern Ontario.

But now we are into a whole new era. We have a new government in Ottawa, an enlightened government, so the future looks much brighter for us in northern Ontario.

Mr. Van Horne: May I ask the minister if his words on page 13 are words that refer to the past?

He said, "Through the Canada-Ontario forest management program we have also funded the expansion of nurseries in the north, the expansion of shipping and storage," etc. That program began when the federal Liberal government was there. Is the minister saying it was a bad program?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am not, but I wish we had more of them. That program expired on March 31, 1984. We went back to the cousins of the member opposite last January, February and March to try to get an extension to those federal-provincial programs, be it the northern Ontario rural development agreement or be it these other programs with respect to mining and forestry.

Does the member know what we were told? Does he know what Ed Lumley told me? He said, "Leo, can we sign something for three months?" I said: "Three months? Come on, Ed. Let's go for a minimum of at least three years." He said, "I will make it six months," because he wanted to get by the election. The government was embarrassed.

Mr. Van Horne: When did it start?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We do not have a program in place right now because of the attitude of the former federal administration. I hope that changes. It has to be for the better.

Mr. Van Horne: When it started it was a good program.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, it was, and we wanted to extend it.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We got one concession. Okay.

The honourable member made reference to Hydro costs being lower in Quebec and Manitoba than in Ontario. I want to point out that in the last three decades Ontario Hydro, as we all know, has had to turn to fossil fuels and, of course, to nuclear energy, which is much more expensive. The major hydraulic developments in this province have been developed. There are a number of small ones—

Mr. Foulds: Two thousand megawatts of hydraulic power is still untapped. The minister knows that.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Port Arthur will control himself.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There are a number of small ones that could be developed in northern Ontario at high cost. There is no question that all those economic ones have been developed, so I

cannot accept as an argument that we should be comparable to Alberta and Manitoba with respect to hydro rates.

Concerning the issue of the Hemlo area, I think maybe I can answer the questions of the member for Lake Nipigon and the member for London North together, because otherwise it would just be a duplication.

Before I do that, I will answer the question about the Chi-Cheemaun. The member asked a question with respect to this; I think he wanted to know about the problems we were having with downtime on the Chi-Cheemaun.

The Chi-Cheemaun had 976 crossings this year, and out of the 976 we missed 16. That is less than two per cent. I will give the member the dates and the reasons. On June 8 we missed two crossings because of bad weather; on August 1 we missed six crossings because of engine failure; on September 4 we missed four crossings because of bad weather; on September 8 we missed two crossings because of bad weather; and on October 3 we missed two crossings again because of bad weather.

I think the members will recall that some time ago we had some serious problems with the Chi-Cheemaun as it was docking in South Baymouth. If there is a high wind, then it is very difficult to control the ship under low power, so they are very cautious.

I think that is an excellent record: 16 crossings missed out of 976. I believe that was the information the member was looking for.

I will now get to the Hemlo area. Perhaps I should put on the record just what the province has done or is doing with respect to a dollar involvement in Marathon and Manitouwadge. Let me point out that Hemlo activity has attracted attention right across this country and North America, because it will raise the production of gold in this province by well over one third. I am told the total value of the Hemlo area, the whole ore body over the life of the three mines in that area, is something like \$70 billion.

Mr. Stokes: It is 70 million tons.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is \$70 billion.

Mr. Stokes: It is 70 million tons of ore valued in excess of \$10 billion.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I have heard \$70 billion. It was very exciting when I heard it. Time will tell, if we live long enough to see it fully developed.

I should put on the record what we are doing in Marathon. There is the municipal airport, phase 1 construction. The total cost is \$694,000, with something like \$556,500 coming from the province. We will be putting about \$700,000 into

the second phase of the municipal airport and \$1 million will come from the federal government. The member is aware of that.

I am sure the member is aware that we are subsidizing the development office in the Marathon area. The cost is \$100,000 and the Ministry of Northern Affairs is putting up about \$70,000. The member is also aware of the new \$5-million high school that has been planned and is moving ahead in the town of Marathon.

We will be making a decision soon with respect to the sewage plant expansion, new wells, a reservoir and pumphouse, and external front sewers. We hope to have that decision within the next couple of weeks, which will certainly take off the pressure for the extension of services as they develop in the areas that they are developing.

Of course, the member has already mentioned the funds that have been earmarked for the industrial park; that is, \$100,000 from Northern Affairs' northern Ontario rural development agreement program and \$100,000 from the federal government.

That totals about \$10,550,000 for Marathon.

For Manitowadge, the municipal airport phase 1 is \$2,125,000. The federal government is assisting with the paving of the airport at Manitowadge at a cost of \$740,000. We have advanced and will be committing \$15,000 for economic development issues in Manitowadge.

The downtown core study, of which I am sure the member is aware, is costing \$45,000, of which \$33,400 comes from the Ministry of Northern Affairs. We are doing a sewage treatment study at 100 per cent of the cost of \$20,000. The total cost of the industrial park expansion study is \$20,000 and we are putting up \$15,000. The total cost of the new waste disposal site study is \$40,000 and \$30,000 is being put up by the province.

That is another \$2.2 million being funded by Ontario for those two communities. There is a substantial amount of direct funding going into those areas.

I think it is fair to say that the development and the pressure on Manitowadge and Marathon will allow them to go out for short-term money, but I want to point out that the serviced lots will be sold, commercial lots will be sold and light industrial lots will be sold so that there will be a long-term benefit.

5:30 p.m.

Reeve Springer has repeatedly said that in the long term he sees no direct burden on the local taxpayers in Marathon, which is the way it really

should be—there is no question about that—as development occurs. With financial assistance from the province to put in that major infrastructure work and the commercial and residential lots being sold, as in any other boom community, I do not look at the downside of a boom like Marathon and Manitowadge; I look at the upside. I think this government and this province have a good track record with respect to boom communities. I look at the town of Dryden with a \$350-million expansion on about a two-year basis. The province responded very quickly and responsibly in that area. I have a few more listed here too.

Mr. Stokes: Can I have a clarification? Is the minister saying he agrees with the application made by the Lake Superior Board of Education for an annexation of those areas that are putting pressure on the education services, so that it increases their tax base? Is this what he is saying?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I have a track record in northern Ontario of which I am very proud. The member represents the town of Ignace. He went through that exercise where they applied—

Mr. Wildman: The minister is ignoring that question.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am sorry. It was the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), but there was a similar situation. The town of Ignace and the school board in that area wanted to annex Mattabi Mines. I supported it at that time, and I strongly support this application. There is no question about it. Not only do I support it, but my ministry also supports it and we have made that known to the Ministry of Education.

As late as an hour ago, I did have a chance to speak to the Minister of Education. She is aware of it and she assures me the approval should be through within four to six weeks. I think this is what the people up there want to hear and I am pleased she is going along with it. There may be some delay and some further study with respect to the rate structure, but the actual boundaries are something she can handle herself, and I understand she will be doing that.

Since the member for Lake Nipigon did bring it up, I think I might say the ministry does support the establishment of a fair and equitable system of taxation for the area communities. I think that is a given. That is what our position is. The staff has been working in that direction. We support the need for capital works in existing individual ministry programs that will endeavour to minimize the financial impact on the existing and new residents in the area.

We also support other ministries in things that may have to do with other programs within their

respective ministries. I think we are on side on that issue. I do not think there are any exceptions or any changes from our point of view. Our interministerial committee, which has been chaired by a member of our staff, Ernie Lane from Thunder Bay, is doing an exceptionally fine job in keeping the thing moving and in answering the many questions.

I should also point out that the government did take a decision not to allow the establishment of another major municipal centre. I think the member failed to bring that out. We directed all that new commercial development to go into Marathon and Manitouwadge, and maybe even some into White River, so those established municipalities would gain the maximum benefit from anything that would occur in their areas, be it through commercial or residential development.

Mr. Stokes: That is a given. The decision was made 10 years ago not to allow new communities to spring up.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, that is true. It is a policy decision of this government. It has worked exceptionally well across northern Ontario. We did it in the Ear Falls area, the Ignace area and now in the Hemlo area, and it certainly works very well.

I was pointing out the track record of the government over the past several years. I know there is some concern in the Manitouwadge and Marathon areas with respect to this boom situation. As I said a moment ago, I am particularly pleased and proud of our track record when one looks at what happened at Ear Falls with the Griffith Mine situation and at Elliot Lake when Denison Mines and Rio Algom had tremendous expansion going on. We moved in, with some federal assistance, I will admit that, in the Great Lakes sewer and water program they had established.

The member for Algoma-Manitoulin is aware of what happened in the Blind River area prior to Eldorado being established there. The province was there with a new sewage treatment plant. In Timmins we have seen how the province moved in with massive amounts of money for infrastructure support. In Pickle Lake the member is aware of the co-operation we had with the Umex Corp.

Mr. Stokes: Surely the minister appreciates the difference between—

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I know, but the point I am trying to make is that this government and this administration is sensitive to those boom situations. I want to assure the people of Manitouwadge and Marathon that we will be

there as we have been today. I want to put the fears of the member aside and assure him we will be there when the need is there and the burden will not be on the local taxpayers in that community. There will be fair and equitable distribution of the tax.

Mr. Stokes: Including corporate tax?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, of the corporate tax base also.

I think both my colleagues raised the issue of the development of the industrial park. As recently as this morning, I heard the reeve of Marathon admit on CBQ he had not sat down with the company face to face to try to work out and resolve this situation. He was very enthusiastic that in the meeting coming up later this week it would be resolved in the interest of the community. He suggested the situation could be resolved because the two positions were not that far apart.

I can understand the position of the James River-Marathon Corp. in wanting a further clarification with respect to its long-term tax load. There is no question about it and we are prepared to work very closely with the firm.

The member for Lake Nipigon also raised the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corp. question with respect to the Hemlo issue. We have already sent a letter to the CMHC officials expressing our point of view. I think we will receive some consideration. Following up on that letter, in a telephone conversation with the officials there was an indication there is going to be realignment or readjustment and some consideration being given to it. I think it is most unfair, there is no question about that.

The member for Lake Nipigon raised the issue of the Northern Light Lake road, a forest access road. The acknowledgement of that letter to me of some time ago is in my briefcase. It will be going out to him. I would point out to the member that this is a forest access road, of which he is aware. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Natural Resources for maintenance, but we do not fund that ministry for maintenance. We fund the Ministry of Natural Resources for the development of new forest access roads, not the maintenance aspect, which falls within the responsibility of that ministry itself.

The member suggested to me I should take a closer and more careful look at the situation and send some of my staff out to examine the road and get an update. I would tell the member that Neil Stuart from the Thunder Bay office was over the road just last week. He did a personal inspection and he reports that he averaged 40

miles per hour to 50 miles per hour on that road. It was not too bad. I just wanted to assure the member that his windshield is still intact. He is sitting right over here in the gallery. He is nodding and saying it was not that bad. I am encouraged by that kind of a positive response, not only by my staff, but by the good condition he found the road in. I express my thanks to Neil for being so upfront.

Mr. Stokes: Does he want me to report to those 600 people who signed the petition, and all the truck drivers, that they do not not know what they are talking about?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I do not think I would go that far, but maybe it is not as bad as some had said. I know in this day and age how a gravel road can become overnight. The washboard sets in and if it is not graded on a regular basis—I have a few gravel roads in my own area and I sympathize with him—I know how bad they can get in a very short time.

5:40 p.m.

With respect to health costs and travel costs, both members raised this issue.

I have to say I supported the honourable member's private member's bill. I make no apologies for that. I think there is some merit in examining that proposal. I do not know if it was accepted the way it was presented, but there is a concern and we are trying to answer that concern now as the member for Lake Nipigon knows because he used the air ambulance service. It works exceptionally well to move a patient from a hospital to a hospital.

My own wife, who had a back problem just a couple of months ago, was flown from the Sioux Lookout General Hospital to Thunder Bay to the General Hospital of Port Arthur. She was admitted from hospital to hospital and then she had to be returned to the Sioux Lookout General Hospital after 10 or 12 days in the General Hospital of Port Arthur. She was moved on the air ambulance system. I think the cost to us was \$25 or something. It was minimal.

Mr. Stokes: It is no problem from hospital to hospital.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: That is right, I know, but then we are getting into costs. There is no question that the Minister of Health, who is a very sensitive and responsible person, is looking into that very carefully. He has said in this House on many occasions that there is a cost factor here that has to be sorted out and has to be examined very carefully because he does have a problem with respect to costs.

On the health issue, both members raised the issue of EldCap, a program I am very proud of. That is one of the most exciting programs we have in northern Ontario. It is moving ahead. I know the members from the third party sent me an open letter. They had some concern about some delay.

I should read one page of part of a statement I made last week. I think it will clarify some of our problems.

"I want to stress to the members that the EldCap program is unique in Ontario. It was designed and presented first right here in northern Ontario by northerners for northerners. Because it is a unique program, we have not been able to just duplicate plans as if we were constructing McDonald's restaurants. Each project presents its own special features. In most cases, extensive redesign and reconstruction of the entire hospital is made necessary to allow for the repositioning of service stations, traffic patterns and so on.

"In some cases, the size and the scope of the hospital is being doubled under the EldCap program.

"All of this takes time and our hospital board and the Ministry of Health staff work to high standards. At this stage, all five projects are well advanced with most planning to begin construction next spring."

These include, as the member for Lake Nipigon pointed out, Atikokan, Geraldton, Dryden, and now Sioux Lookout and Smooth Rock Falls. Applications are under review, awaiting funding approval because that is our biggest problem, from Blind River, Hornepayne, Nipigon, Rainy River and Wawa. I am scheduled to meet also with the Chapleau people on November 1 of this year. We also have letters of intent from Marathon and Red Lake. That is the extent of that particular program.

As I mentioned in my remarks on a number of occasions, this is a five- to six-year program. We have budgeted \$25 million to \$30 million and tried to stage them in so they will come on stream. I think I have to point out that while we had in our design looked at a 20-bed facility costing something like \$1 million to \$1.5 million, maybe \$1.7 million, because of the new heating requirements, a new electrical system that is required because of these extra beds and major changes to the hospital itself—being promoted and aggravated by the 20 beds—we are now finding that a 20-bed addition on the Sioux Lookout Hospital will cost in excess of \$5 million.

The local people have to raise one sixth of that cost, which is about \$900,000. They have something like \$360,000 raised now, but that is placing a burden on them. Their hospital board has come forward with its plans. The original plans were for something like \$8 million, which we had difficulty with.

We sent it to the health council. They reviewed it and took out portions of the plan that really did not fall into the EldCap responsibility and reduced it to about \$5 million.

That is happening in a lot of the hospitals. I think Geraldton has a special situation and is a special example too. That is causing the delay. There is no delay with respect to the funding on our part because we are advancing the cost of the engineering and design work. All those funds are flowing now to those five hospitals.

I am particularly pleased with the way it is moving. I look forward to sharing the limelight with my colleagues when we turn the sod on what is a new and exciting program. As I said in my opening remarks, Alberta is sending down some authorities to look at the EldCap program because the government there thinks it will fit the northern Alberta situation.

Mr. Stokes: It will be nice if you are going to be able to show them a bed.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes. As I said in Sioux Lookout the other day, maybe some day I will be a recipient of our good work here in the Legislature today since I intend to live up there. I invite members to join me in one of those facilities. It will be exceptionally comfortable. I know we will be very proud of what we have accomplished.

We are moving ahead on that. I do not think we can move really much faster than we are going. I think once we get these five behind us, we will have a wealth of knowledge and experience that we can lean on for the remaining eight or 10 we will have coming forward.

The honourable members also mentioned in their opening remarks the question of seasonally adjusted hydro rates. As has already been mentioned, the northern Progressive Conservative caucus was very vocal in leading a review by Ontario Hydro in this area. To my knowledge, this position has not changed. The attitude is still the same within the northern caucus. I do not feel there will be any change as long as this group is together. At this point I cannot see it being otherwise. Do you agree with that?

Mr. Van Horne: I am not sure whether the minister has any other references to the health theme in his reply notes there, but I did ask the

question about foreign doctors and whether or not any liaison had happened between the Ontario and federal governments to consider these people as possible placement people in northern communities. Does the minister have a response to that?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes. I took it upon myself to contact the federal authorities several months ago with respect to allowing foreign doctors into Ontario on the condition they would operate in northern Ontario for a specific period.

The reaction I got was a negative one. There is no question about that. They thought they might give some consideration with respect to Canadian-born or Ontario-born people who had gone out of the country to become educated. I spoke to the officials in a very strong and positive way, hoping they would reconsider. I will have to reactivate that contact with the new authorities now in Ottawa. Certainly, I intend to do that because I think that is one way that we can move forward.

We have already given out something like 351 bursaries under our program of assisting dentists and doctors over the last five or six years. That is having an effect, but again they stay for only a couple of years. We have a number of them up in northern Ontario who come and go. We have 18 or 19 medical clinics we have assisted with. We are moving in all those directions.

5:50 p.m.

Also, under our medical recruitment program, which is on next week, municipalities are assisted financially to send down a representative to the medical campuses in southern Ontario in the company of Northern Affairs and Ministry of Health staff. We put on a reception in those major communities. The members are invited. The one here in Toronto is on Friday, October 26, at the Hilton Harbour Castle. If they are around, they should drop in for 15 or 20 minutes and see the competition among the communities. It is utterly fantastic. They set up their booths—

Mr. Stokes: I cannot; your estimates are on.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: We can go after the House rises. It is a real education to see those communities outselling themselves to the medical students, and it is working.

I was pleased to hear that Alberta and Saskatchewan were coming to see how we operate on that medical recruitment team, because we have had some successes with it. I think there is some movement.

Mr. Van Horne: I wonder whether the minister could indicate to us before these

estimates are finished how many communities could be classified as underserved.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I do not have that information with me, but I can have it for the member at the next session. I will have a list for him on Friday.

If I may move to the cost-of-living problem mentioned by both members, it is one that is shared by my colleagues in other jurisdictions. While we have developed an airstrip development program, and I think it has gone exceptionally well, to really see the benefits of that airstrip development program and to see the effect it has had on the cost of living, I think one must visit places such as Kingfisher Lake, McDowell Lake or Muskrat Dam Lake, which do not have an airstrip, and compare the prices at those communities with other communities that have an airstrip. That is when one really sees the difference. There is no question about it.

What is difficult to sell to the local people is that it is affecting the cost of living. I think it is. If the airstrip was not there, the cost of living would be far in excess of what it is today. There is no question about that. With the airstrip program come all the amenities of 12-months-a-year service, the isolation aspect is removed, mail service is more available and health service is on their doorstep on a 24-hour-a-day basis. There is much to gain from the airstrip development program.

The reason we have gone to one per every two years is that we are winding down the program. We have practically filled all our requirements under phase 1. We are at phase 2 now where we are going to the very small communities, such as McDowell Lake and North Spirit Lake that have perhaps 150 people, not even 200 people.

I might say that on my trip to Kingfisher Lake we dropped in to Ogoki and looked at their situation. Again, I was impressed, as I was at Kingfisher, with the enthusiasm and the drive of the individual chief and the members of his council to improve their way of life and the quality of life. We are going to extend—

Mr. Stokes: Are you going to get him a truck?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: At the insistence of the member for Cochrane North (Mr. Piché), we are going to give him a truck and we are going to give him some equipment. We are not only going to lengthen the runway at Ogoki, but we are going to fix up the town streets. The member for Cochrane North was ecstatic when we advised him of our decision.

Mr. Van Horne: To be presented before the day the writ is issued.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They have already been notified.

Mr. Stokes: He wrote to me about it and it is not even in my riding.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I want to get back to Kingfisher and echo what the member for Lake Nipigon said about that community. It has everything going for it because they have done it themselves, even to providing their own electrical power, which to me was a major step forward. They have their own co-operative store that is well stocked and well run. The council is run in a businesslike way.

I remember coming out of the council chamber and seeing a great big article in the *Globe and Mail* with great pictures of the member for Lake Nipigon visiting Kingfisher. It was a good story. It was well done and they were very proud of his visit to that area. The whole community lends itself to progress. They were not looking for any great handouts. They just wanted a helping hand to move forward. It was a nice, positive, sincere attitude, and we were pleased to respond to their request for an airstrip, which will go ahead as quickly as possible.

Finally, I want to touch on the member for Lake Nipigon's suggestion with respect to a Lake Nipigon parkway commission. I am most pleased, and I say this sincerely, that the honourable member has, in perhaps his last time in these estimates, recognized the need to diversify our economic base in northern Ontario through tourism.

He is on to mining. He is very active in the mining field now with Hemlo in his riding. He knows what the pulp and paper industry can do for his riding. This new thrust towards tourism, the suggestion of a Lake Nipigon parkway commission, is something that should really be looked at very carefully. It has merit.

As the member has pointed out, we have seen what Minaki can do—that size of an investment—to spur the private sector. It has had great economic benefits for our area. I am sure that something along those lines is something on which we should be starting initial discussions. If the industrial commission from Lake Nipigon would start the ball rolling, we might be able to provide them with some initial dollars to start a very preliminary study. Who knows? Perhaps some day it might be called the Jack Stokes Parkway.

It is an excellent idea, a very imaginative idea, and we should have more of those kinds of things in northern Ontario. We have the Lake of the Woods Parkway Commission, as the member

knows, in my area, and it relates itself to the Mississippi River parkway. Maybe there should be something around Lake Nipigon and perhaps some other areas of northern Ontario. When we see what has happened with the Niagara Parks Commission, the St. Clair Parkway Commission and the St. Lawrence Parks Commission, they have all added an economic benefit to the areas they are operating in. That is something we should look at very seriously. I commend the member for his very imaginative ideas and creative thinking.

I think that just about winds up my remarks. If there is anything I have forgotten and have not touched on for the members—

Mr. Stokes: I would like the minister to touch on the electrification program. That was one of the first things I mentioned.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes.

Mr. Stokes: I believe the minister visited Scandinavia and Italy. We went to Quebec. We were going to go to Cap de la Madeleine, but they were not ready for us. The minister has done quite a bit of work on this. When can we see the results? Where is the beef?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: It is fair to say the peat issue is something that captured our imagination when the economics were right. Now that the energy crisis is behind us, the costs have not accelerated as much as—

Mr. Stokes: Not for people in the north, it has not.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I know but at this point the development of peat for energy just does not seem feasible and economical. Our report from the Fiat people, who did the Armstrong issue with respect to the Totem generator, was not encouraging at all. We have stepped back and tried to encourage the private sector. Leon LaPrairie is one of the real spark plugs in the province in trying to get something going.

Mr. Stokes: What about wind, diesel or immersible generators?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I do not know where we stand with those particular issues. Perhaps I can get some information from my staff and have a report for the member at our next sitting. Just to bring him up to date as to where we stand on the Sudbury one, I know the Sultan issue is going exceptionally well after some tough performances in the first year of operation. A gearbox broke and some dam caved in, but now it has been operating for about a year. It is only 1,500 kilowatts. It is not very large, but it is working. It was very costly. I can give the member a full report on that.

Mr. Chairman: I might draw the minister's attention to the fact that it is six o'clock.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Bernier, the committee of supply reported progress.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

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Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP)
Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP)
Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Mississauga North PC)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
Friday, October 12, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Friday, October 12, 1984

The House met at 10 a.m.

Prayers.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I rise to correct the record. Yesterday I was asked a question by the member for Beaches-Woodbine (Ms. Bryden). In my response I said the following:

"I remind the member opposite there is a provision for domestics in Bill 141, a bill we were unable to get through the House this spring that we plan to introduce this fall. If the members opposite truly wish to support the circumstances of the domestic worker, I suggest they take a look at Bill 141 again."

I was incorrect. While the bill could well benefit domestics in that it will address several issues related to women, it does not expressly refer to domestics. The amendment to the Employment Standards Act I was thinking about at the time in respect of Bill 141 was actually enacted by regulation; it is not in the bill. Meanwhile, Bill 101, which deals with the Workers' Compensation Act, does address another concern of domestics.

I regret my ill-advised remarks yesterday and extend a personal apology to the member for Beaches-Woodbine.

DEATH OF JEAN LYONS

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, this morning I would like to draw to the attention of the House and make a few remarks concerning the passing earlier this month of someone who was well known to all of us, my executive assistant, Jean Lyons.

I say "well known to all of us" because for the last seven years or so the Legislature itself was one of her great loves. We had all seen her on the Treasury benches not just at the times when the Treasury benches are occupied fully during question period and sometimes during the votes but at 9:30, 10 o'clock and 10:30 on the Tuesday and Thursday nights when there is not very much going on.

But to her, of course, in the political mainstream of Ontario there was always something going on. This chamber, the committee rooms

and the entire building, along with her family, her political activity and community work, were a very dominant factor in her day-to-day life.

For the last four years she had been terminally ill. Somehow, she lied very successfully to just about everybody that she had some form of remission. I can now say she never had a day of remission since 1980. There were days in which she came to work in absolutely excruciating pain because she felt that was what was expected of her and it was part of her contribution to society. She was a great comfort and a great inspiration to many who were informed that they had cancer.

Back in July on her last public occasion, which was the day the Lieutenant Governor (Mr. Aird) honoured a very distinguished public servant, Dr. James Band, with the publication of our book, *Decades of Service*, I know His Honour, even though she was very weak, was very moved by her exuberance for life and her determination to do things for other people.

Today we have an empty seat, symbolically on the Treasury benches. I think the thing Ms. Lyons would like to be remembered the most for were the many little things she did for very ordinary people. Notwithstanding the severity of her illness, she always had time for people, particularly for those who were not as fortunate. I think perhaps the greatest tribute to her is the fact that by herself she had to raise a family of four, long before the phrase "sole-support mother" was even in the language.

At a very early age she had to combat a terminal and very difficult illness. She never became mean, she never became hard and she had infinite compassion even for those who had minor troubles.

I think the one thing she would like recorded posthumously is that she did not like to lose, and she did not lose to cancer. In the end she beat the cancer; the cancer could not do any more. However, the price she paid to win was enormous because there was no body left. I think she would like it recorded that, even faced with cancer, she did not lose.

I think her very life symbolized what this Legislature in the final analysis is all about. She may have been a political person, but it is political persons who make up this Legislature.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I knew Ms. Lyons personally and well. For reasons already put forward by the minister, I will miss her very much also. She was a good politician. She was also an outstanding public servant and never hesitated to give the kind of assistance that was really helpful.

She will be missed in the public life of the province and certainly in the lives of all of us who as individuals in this House deal with the ministry. We certainly convey our sympathy to her family and all of her grieving friends.

10:10 a.m.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of my colleagues, I would like to associate ourselves with the very thoughtful remarks of the minister. I know from personal experience what a kind and helpful person she was. She will be missed. We would like to extend our condolences to her family.

CONDITION OF LEGISLATIVE BUILDING

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to your attention a concern I have had for some time, and that is the care of these main parliament buildings. I have noticed since this new session we have new and blue lights in the buildings. I notice four big holes had to be bored to have these lights put in place.

Mr. Nixon: It is a very boring place.

Mr. Mancini: It is a very boring place. This is another example of how, when we just call somebody in whenever we want to put in an electrical plug, they do the work and it is done.

I have also noticed there is quite a bit of work going on at the north wing of the Legislature. I guess the repairs are needed. What concerns me is that this work is continuing on an ad hoc basis. Whenever something needs to be done on these main parliament buildings, someone issues the order to do it.

Mr. Speaker, I am not sure whether you give the orders. I am not sure whether it is the Board of Internal Economy, a civil servant or the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe), but it seems we have several people giving orders for different work to be done on this building.

All the honourable members of the House know this is the year of the bicentennial. I am very sorry we did not use this opportunity to put together a nonpartisan committee to decide exactly how we are going to refurbish this building. All the members will agree it is in need of quite a bit of work.

Mr. Kerrio: New tenants is what it needs.

Mr. Mancini: It might get some new tenants, too.

Mr. Speaker, could you inform me and inform the House of the procedure before work is done on this historic building, before someone is allowed to come in and bore holes or cut some of the sandstone that we have as part of the face of the building? What are we going to do to preserve the historic nature of this building? What are we going to do as far as the complete refurbishing of the building is concerned?

Mr. Speaker: I would suggest it would be more appropriate for you to put a question to the Minister of Government Services at the appropriate time, but I just want to inform all members of the House there are no changes or renovations carried out either by the Office of the Assembly or by the Ministry of Government Services without consultation. There is a joint responsibility and we do work very closely together.

As I say, that question should be put to the minister.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, just before you leave the topic I guess these new lights are supposed to cut the glare. I see the member for Elgin (Mr. McNeil) has brought his dark glasses. I am not sure whether it is because of the bright lights or another problem he is having this morning, but it is something that should concern us.

I want to bring to the attention of honourable members that the lights have a certain colour cast to them that makes the members of the Treasury benches actually look to have a deathly terminal pallor. It brings out all the suspicious and surreptitious lines on their faces that really bother us. I wonder whether we could bring back the rosy glow morticians use from time to time to improve the situation because they look bad and I think we should do something about it in the last few months they will be occupying those seats.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: Mr. Speaker, if I may: what we have been trying to do with the lights is put a little light on the opposition, particularly the official opposition. We were attempting to do that with great difficulty and we thought the lights would help. The pallor over there was rather distinct in its whiteness.

We think this is a plus. We know that sometimes over there they try to look up for some divine guidance, but it is only when one looks up higher that one gets more glare than before. Seriously, what we really attempted to do with the new lights, and I think with some success, was to provide a greater degree of foot-candle

power and to give a greater spreading out of the light. I think it is fair to say that the previous lights were designed, frankly, to come to the lower benches to a greater degree. The intensity of light is now much more equal over the complete caucuses on both sides of the Legislature.

It is hard to tell in the short term, but I understand they also do not generate quite as much heat as the previous ones, again probably because they are farther removed from the bodies contained herein. I hope it helps the colour opposite.

ORAL QUESTIONS

DEATHS OF POLICEMEN

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor), I have a question for the Provincial Secretary for Justice with respect to the report in the press today about the questions surrounding the death of Constable Jack Ross in the event in the Woodstock area last week.

Apparently, a statement has been issued by the commissioner of the Ontario Provincial Police stating in part as follows from the quotation I have:

"Preliminary investigations suggest that Constable Jack Ross may have been hit by bullets from more than one source.

"At the moment, there is at best confusion as to the source of all the bullets. A number of shots were fired by this suspect and by the police... several shots were fired in a very short period of time in poor lighting conditions."

There may be other comments in the statement. I do not have those, but I had hoped the Solicitor General might have given some clarification of this revelation this morning. Would the Provincial Secretary for Justice be able to assist us with respect to the facts of an apparent inquest being ordered and with respect to what is being done to make sure this situation is thoroughly and carefully explained?

Hon. Mr. Walker: Mr. Speaker, I have not consulted with the Solicitor General on this question, but I am aware that an inquest has been called into the matter. Of course, as the honourable member would appreciate, the purpose of the inquest is to determine precisely the means by which the death has occurred. One would expect that this would be the kind of expression the inquest would provide in its report, precisely the kind of question the member is raising now.

I think it would be inappropriate for any of us to go further and attempt to assign the shots to a source. There was a *mêlée* at the time and a very difficult situation, a situation in which it is confusing at the moment where the shots may have emanated from. That being the case, the most appropriate forum in which to discuss this would undoubtedly be the coroner's inquest, which I understand will proceed very quickly. It is not going to take a significant amount of time to have the published report; it will be published, made public and available to everyone in very short order.

One of the concerns one might express in a case like this, though, is something that the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and I have been commenting on, and that is the whole question of people being released on parole and on mandatory supervision. It is my understanding that in this particular case the individual who died in the incident—not Constable Ross but rather the young man who was killed in that shootout—had served 10 months of a 51-month sentence. Had he not been out on the streets in such short order, there might have been a totally different result today in respect of the tragedy that beset Constable Ross, who no doubt would have been alive today.

10:20 a.m.

Mr. Breithaupt: I appreciate the comments made by the provincial secretary in this very difficult situation. I would commend the opportunity for him to attempt to ensure that the inquest is dealt with as quickly as possible, so we will all be relieved to know exactly what the facts are no matter how the circumstances derived that occasioned the result.

MEDIA VIOLENCE

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Attorney General.

I notice the Toronto Star of Thursday, October 11, has the headline "McMurtry Urges New Laws to Control Movie Violence." In the body of the article the Attorney General is quoted as saying, "The regulations are needed to limit the 'mindless frenzy of violence.'" I know the Toronto Star has a knee-jerk reaction whenever the Attorney General makes a comment like this; he did not get his nickname for nothing.

Mr. Bradley: Roy McHeadline.

Mr. Nixon: I notice also in the Attorney General's constituency report he tells his constituents he was active as long ago as 1976: "Roy, in a speech in Chatham, expressed his concern

over the distribution of hard-core, pornographic material that glorified violence against women.”

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Read the rest of it. It is good stuff.

Mr. Nixon: I would like to read the whole thing, but I—

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: I just want to ask the Attorney General whether he recalls spending \$2.2 million on the Royal Commission on Violence in the Communications Industry, chaired by the late Judy LaMarsh. The royal commission reported some years ago; I believe it was as much as eight years ago that the original report came in.

Does he not think, since he has been the chief law officer of the crown for lo these many years and since he was operative in establishing a royal commission on this matter, that he should do more than just come along and ride his teetering surfboard on the wave of public opinion as it moves back and forward and perhaps try to do something about a problem that has continued and is growing worse?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, my recollection is that that royal commission, which I must admit I supported completely, may have been established even before I became the Attorney General. I recommend that the honourable member go back and read some of the research that was done as a result of that royal commission.

In so far as the Toronto Star report is concerned, the statements attributed to me were totally accurate. While the expressions I made were expressions of sentiment, a deep-seated conviction I have held for many years, what the report did not say—I recognize there are space limitations—was that I also said the difficulty with this issue was that until not only was there the necessary collective political will on both sides of the border but also until we achieved a point where there was a collective will in the community itself, in society as a whole, to put an end to this nonsense, then government likely was not going to be able to do very much about it.

Instead of trying to make silly, petty little partisan points, I hope this side of the House will be concerned with one of the most pressing issues today, the glorification of mindless violence in the media, which as far as I am concerned has a direct influence on the increasing violence in the community. I would think the member would like to take that issue seriously and be part of the debate himself.

Mr. Nixon: Is the minister not aware that he is the chief law officer of the crown, not I? I am raising the matter in the Legislature because we have agreed, and my colleague the leader of this party has put forward his positive alternatives in these matters, which as yet have not been responded to by the government.

If in fact this is a mindless frenzy of violence, surely a matter such as this requires more than political posturing by the Attorney General. It requires the sort of leadership that a proper and effective law officer of the crown would bring forward, so this Legislature could take the necessary steps to counteract the situation the Attorney General has described.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: When it comes to political leadership, I think I can demonstrate the hundreds of platforms where I have been talking about this issue since 1975-76, unlike the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson), who waits until something becomes a little trendy and then jumps on the bandwagon for a while, waiting for the next little trendy train to come along rather than being involved in a meaningful public issue.

As I have said on countless platforms, this government cannot solve this situation and the government of Canada cannot solve this situation alone. First and foremost, it does require a massive political and collective will on the part of the community as a whole suddenly to say, “Look, we have had enough of this nonsense.” Until the community is prepared to state that, then no government is going to be able to make much difference.

What I have been doing for nine years, and what the member has not been doing, is trying to provide some leadership to bring about this community will that is so vital if we are ever going to ameliorate this growing problem. I would hope that he would find the public is interested in this and that this is not just a bandwagon the members opposite jump on and off when they think it is politically appropriate.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, it is with some temerity that I enter this particular exchange this morning. I would ask the Attorney General whether in pursuit of this collective will of the community he would disclose to the assembly exactly the result of the government polling of public opinion in this area at this particular time.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, I do not know. The Ministry of the Attorney General has yet to conduct its first public poll during my nine years. I am not quarrelling with the important consultation with the public of Ontario that is represented by polls—I think part of the demo-

cratic system requires government to keep in touch with the feeling of the community—but it just so happens that my ministry has never conducted a public opinion poll. In this particular area, I do not think one needs to conduct a public opinion poll to know the seriousness of this problem.

Mr. Renwick: You have just said that the community is not keeping pace with you.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: The community has not yet demonstrated a collective will in opposition to this because obviously the people who make these films for movie screens or television are very much aware, much more aware than the honourable member is, of what is going on in the community. Quite clearly, they are aware there is an incredibly broad and profitable market for violence as entertainment. Billions of dollars would not be spent on violence as entertainment unless there was not only a good deal of community tolerance and acceptance but also support for that form of entertainment.

That is why I say with respect, and in a nonpartisan way, that each and every member of this Legislature has a fundamental responsibility to do what we can as individuals to bring about some changes in these community attitudes as they relate to this high level of tolerance about what I consider to be a very unacceptable form of entertainment. We all as individuals have that responsibility of leadership to bring about these attitudinal changes. Until we do, government is not going to accomplish very much without that community support.

10:30 a.m.

Mr. Nixon: I wonder whether the minister could climb down from his political posturing and tell us what regulations he is going to bring before this House to control the matter. He sees it as a serious emergency, and we agree. He has indicated that he has been consistent in these matters. According to the headlines, I notice he is thinking of changing his mind on his approach to capital punishment.

In the past, he has attacked the federal government on all these matters, saying the responsibility lay exclusively there. Then the Leader of the Opposition brought forward our package, our alternatives, calling for the regulations that have not been forthcoming from the government. The report of a \$2.2-million royal commission has been sitting on a dusty shelf for eight years. The minister has been the chief law officer of the crown for most of those years.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Nixon: What is he going to do about it now that he sees it as an emergency?

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: We have been talking about this for nine years and for most of that time there has been silence on the other side. The member has heard what the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie) had to say about what he intends to do with respect to amendments to the Theatres Act and our efforts provincially to regulate the dissemination of violent pornography.

We on this side of the House are committed to doing what we can, within our provincial jurisdiction, to eliminate this material, and we get very little support from across the aisle. We have a record. We do not hear the members across the floor stand up and say, "We support what the film review board is doing with respect to films." The member has heard our express intentions with respect to videotapes. I think we are doing everything possible within our jurisdiction to address this problem. I hope we might see a little leadership from the other side of the House.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. Just above the McHeadline in yesterday's Toronto Star referred to by the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon), there was a joyful eulogy entitled "Women Are Slowly Closing Wage Gap, Study Says."

The Toronto Star went on to trumpet the joyous news that, "Women are slowly but steadily closing the gap between what they earn and what men earn...." The gap has narrowed from 58 cents on the dollar in 1967 to 64 cents for every dollar earned by a man in 1982.

May I ask the minister whether he shares the Toronto Star's satisfaction with that level of progress? What exactly are his feelings about that snail's pace?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, to put a positive light on it, one can rejoice at the fact that it is going in the right direction and that there is some evidence with respect to the closing of the gap. No one will be satisfied until such time as that gap is substantially closed.

The record for the public service should be clearly put. We are doing much better in the public service than is the private sector with respect to that. We are now at about 76 per cent. Generally speaking, it was my understanding that in the private sector it was 63 per cent. Who

can really be satisfied with that? As the honourable member knows, a number of measures are under way now with respect to correcting that situation, and we have listed those programs as we attempt to provide some leadership.

Addressing the member's particular question, I think it is helpful to have some indication by way of objective study that there is some progress in closing the gap. I do not think we should take any particular satisfaction until such time as we see more substantial progress along that line. We will continue to provide the leadership we are doing as an employer in that regard.

Mr. McClellan: The minister referred to the objective evidence of the study. The evidence is that in the past 15 years the wage gap between men and women has gone up by six cents on the dollar. That is an average rate of progress of 0.4 cents per year. If we extrapolate that into the future, it will take 90 years, until the year 2074, to make up the 36 cents that remain between 64 cents and \$1.

Is it perhaps the intention of the minister to celebrate this accomplishment on the occasion of Ontario's tricentennial? Or does he intend to accept his responsibilities as the minister responsible for these problems and take consequential action?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I would think we would all want to be associated with any policy and any program that would accelerate the rate at which this gap is closed. The member is a reasonable man and he understands there are a number of factors that will contribute to this and will help in this particular program.

Mr. McClellan: Do not call me "reasonable."

Mr. Foulds: Calling him "reasonable" is slanderous.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Heavens, no. Call him anything else, but not "reasonable."

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: He knows one of the problems that plagues this particular matter has been the occupational segregation according to which women have found themselves in so few of the job classifications. We have to see further steps taken for women to break themselves out of this segregation and to move into nontraditional occupations in the longer term. This gap will be closed quite substantially when women find themselves occupying what up to now have been considered nontraditional roles for women. This is something the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and many others have been includ-

ing in their comments and public remarks. It is something we have to understand. Indeed, this is being translated into the programs of these particular ministries; that is the longer term.

In the more immediate term, matters such as equal pay and related activities receive some attention as we think of equality of access and advancement within the place of employment; so there are many forces at work now that will contribute to the improvement of this situation.

In summary, we are not satisfied with the way it is now. Short-term and long-term initiatives have to be taken, and I am confident there is a public will to correct this inequality and this imbalance.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I was interested to hear that the minister is satisfied when the trend is in the right direction. What about the incidents where it is not in the right direction, as indicated in the report from the management information systems branch of the Ministry of Education, which shows that the number of women principals in elementary schools has actually dropped since 1972? As a matter of fact, the numbers are very low anyway, but they dropped by 3.6 per cent in that decade in spite of the fact that we have had a most estimable and capable woman at the head of that particular pyramid.

I would also point out that in almost every area of education women, who have in the past formed the basis of the working body, the people who face the children in the classroom and who do the real work, have always been either fully or partially barred from moving up into the areas of administration, where the big money and the real administrative responsibility are. I hope the minister will agree that it is not enough to have nailed his banner to the mast in the person of the Minister of Education and to leave the rest of it without some sort of program that is going to give other women a chance in education.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, so there is no misunderstanding, may I indicate right at the outset that both the Minister of Education and I in speaking to school board officials have indicated that we are not satisfied with the present situation; there is no question about that. A very large percentage of those who are employed by school boards are women, and they are quite qualified and competent.

In all fairness, we should point out that just during the past three years the participation of women in those courses that have to be taken to qualify for further advancement has increased from seven per cent to 35 per cent at the present time.

Mr. Nixon: You give them a certificate but you do not give them a job.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They have to have the qualifications first.

10:40 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Welch: The point is that until such time as they have the qualifications we perhaps will allow that particular situation to continue, because those in charge of these programs can always use that as one of the excuses for there not being more involvement by women in those positions of responsibility.

We are not satisfied with this. We are engaged in a very active program of positive affirmative action in so far as the educational authorities are concerned. We have been to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario with the same view, and in the company of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) we will soon be talking to the hospitals.

The honourable member is quite right in drawing attention to the fact that we should expect to see more progress in that area. The Minister of Education and I have been very definite on that point. We are quite satisfied now that the requirements for these particular advancements are being acquired by more and more women.

Mr. McClellan: In the light of what the minister has described as objective evidence that the rate of progress is so minuscule as to require another 90 years under the present circumstances, would he not agree it would make sense for him to sit down with the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) next week and redraft Bill 141 to include meaningful equal pay for work of equal value provisions?

In addition, would the minister get serious about meaningful affirmative action programs in the private sector? Nobody should expect to wait until Ontario's tercentenary to achieve wage equality between men and women.

Hon. Mr. Welch: I do not subscribe to the view that it is going to take 90 years. As one looks back and thinks of how long it took to get to where we were about 10 years ago, and then looks at the progress in the last five to 10 years, the member should have a fair view of the rate of acceleration.

We are talking about very basic things, changing public attitudes, working on a number of programs that will raise the level of public awareness with respect to this. We are quite committed to affirmative action. I told the leader of the New Democratic Party a couple of days

ago that I spent all summer meeting with presidents and chief executive officers to make it quite clear that to emulate the government's own record would show some significant progress with respect to this whole question of equality of access and advancement.

I want to assure the member there is a very strong commitment. I do not subscribe to the view that it is going to take another 90 years. I think we are seeing a whole new generation, a whole new attitudinal change with respect to women. We happen to believe a woman's place is where she wants to be and we should be removing any impediments that stand in the way of equality of opportunity in the work place and, indeed, in career advancement. This has been a longer term proposition.

I want the member to know I feel the people of this province understand that, because they know there are many influences that are brought to bear on this matter in the school, in the home and in society generally. There have been some remarkable changes and we will see the results of them in a much shorter period of time than the member suggests.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. He will recall saying in this Legislature on June 22 that his employment programs for youth would create a minimum of 100,000 jobs for the unemployed youth of this province by September 1 of this year.

If that is the case, can he explain why in June of this year there were 1,013,000 employed youths and in September of this year only 891,000 employed youths? In other words, there were 122,000 fewer young people working in the province in September of this year than in June. Can he explain what happened to the 100,000 jobs he was going to create for these people?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, those young people went back to school in September.

Mr. Foulds: The Treasurer made a commitment to create 100,000 jobs for the unemployed youth of this province. The fact is there are 122,000 fewer jobs in the province. What happened to the 100,000 jobs the Treasurer said his programs would create?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might remind the honourable member that a number of those programs, many of which the member himself supported, were summer employment programs. One of our most successful programs has been the Ontario youth employment program. That accounts for tens of thousands of those jobs. Those

summer employment programs are pointed at making sure young people have jobs during the summer to enable them to go back to school in the fall. When the fall comes, those youngsters, many of whom now have some money and experience behind them, are much helped by those summer programs and are now back to school.

That portion of our program is the same as every year's programs; that is, for many years our summer Experience and Ontario youth employment programs have employed tens of thousands of young people during the summer, and then, happily, those young people go back to school in the fall.

What has happened to those jobs? They were created. The positions were created, the young people were employed and they went back to school in the fall, not having wasted a summer sitting at home watching television but having worked, thanks to the tens of thousands of jobs we created. The figure was indeed more than 100,000.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the minister is confusing me a little bit because there are 156,000 youth unemployed in the province now and there were only 151,000 unemployed in August. If they have gone back to school, where did these extra kids come from, particularly when he has this 10-point program that has been so heavily financed and ballyhooed by the minister and his cohorts around the province?

Would the minister not agree that the programs have not lived up to expectations, that the commitment of money and advertising has really resulted in nothing more than just the commitment of money and advertising and that we have more young people unemployed now than when he started this initiative?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member will recall, I was quite clear in my budget and subsequent to it in saying these new programs were not intended to solve the youth unemployment problem, or to solve it this summer.

Mr. Nixon: Yes, but at least they should help.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member will look at our statistics, he will find that is exactly what happened.

Mr. Foulds: You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Nixon: It is worse now than it was when you started.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I am afraid the statistics would not support the member on that. The

unemployment figures for young people this year are lower than those of last year and they are lower than they were last spring.

Mr. McClellan: Which hand are the statistics in?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: It is true.

Mr. Nixon: Not in June.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: If the member wants to pick one month and say—

Interjection.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Might I point out that our long-term youth employment and training programs in the budget were pointed towards ensuring that we do not have the kinds of ups and downs that have been the history in the past. Our 100,000 jobs did help our young people this summer; the member knows that. They must have, or else the unemployment rate during the summer would not have fallen to 12.2 per cent from 17 per cent not that many months ago.

Mr. Nixon: Why did it go to 14.9 per cent this month?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: You will have a supplementary; you can ask that question.

Mr. Foulds: This is the first time I have heard that going back to school is the definition of a job creation program. The fact is that unemployment has decreased by exactly zero young people between September of last year and September of this year. Can the Treasurer explain why his May budget did absolutely nothing to create either short-term real jobs or long-term real jobs for young people?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: First, the average unemployment rate for young people last year was almost 18 per cent.

Mr. Foulds: Talk in absolute numbers.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Why does the member not let me answer? He asked his question; now I will give him an answer. He does not have to accept it.

The unemployment rate for September 1984 was 14.9 per cent, and that is several percentage points lower than it was three or four months ago. But let us not pretend that 14.9 per cent is low enough; it is not. We have a serious and ongoing problem with 156,000 young people who are unemployed; no one is denying that.

If the member wants to suggest that our programs—which are pointed towards disadvantaged young people, which are giving them training, which are giving them opportunities

they never had, which are giving them employment opportunities in the private sector, which are giving them counselling they never had and which are giving them opportunities to continue their education and to make up for courses they missed when they dropped out of high school—are the wrong approach, then he many suggest that.

All I would offer is that it will be some time until those young people have benefited from that guidance, until they have benefited from that counselling, until they have benefited from the continuing education and training they are getting. It will be some time until that has happened and until we can assess whether our approach, which is to give disadvantaged young people education and training, is the right approach.

The approach of the member opposite, let us face it, would have been to take that money—

Mr. Foulds: It is your approach, and they are your words.

10:50 a.m.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member can make his speech later. His approach would have been to take that money, spend it to create a couple of thousand more jobs this summer and the young people would be back on unemployment next year. We disagree with that.

USE OF LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment. I would like to ask about the proposed Runnymede Development Corp. plans for a large shopping centre and high-rise development in Scarborough, on top of the old waste dump in that area. It may contain toxic materials because of the problem that existed in the past when what went into those dumps was not really monitored.

It is the old Victoria Park dump at Gerrard and Victoria Park that closed in 1959. It may have been used to dump chemicals from the old munitions factories that existed in that area a good many years ago. The site is releasing methane gas, which is not unusual for those sites. I am more concerned about what might be buried in the toxic area.

Part of the 17-acre site will be excavated and the waste materials moved to the centre of the site. The buildings will be built primarily around the waste, which will be landscaped and planted in grass. I wonder why the minister allowed that project to go ahead on that site.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, the Runnymede site has been carefully analysed by my

ministry. I have to suggest to the member for Niagara Falls that, according to the best scientific information we have at the moment, the level of toxicity at that site is extremely low—virtually negligible.

There are always elements of methane gas associated with garbage, as the member is well aware. That problem is being corrected as a result of some of the excavation that is being proposed for the site. There is no possibility of ultimate explosion or upset as a result of methane gas leakage at the site.

As well, my ministry has been co-operating with the city of Scarborough to give the neighbouring residents every assurance that the development will proceed in an orderly and appropriate fashion. I want to give the member every assurance that we have carefully analysed it. We are assured in our own minds that we are proceeding in a proper fashion.

Mr. Kerrio: I still have some concerns about the children and the people who might live in that area in the future. I hope we are not making the same mistake we made in the Malvern area in relation to the radioactive soil and all the consequences that developed from that.

There is an area I will question the minister about in my supplementary. It has to do with why no public hearings were held on that project and why petitions from the people in the area were ignored.

As the minister knows, there is already equipment on the site. We have not had the 25 years that is mandatory for those sites to be left undeveloped before we go ahead with developments. The minister knows the 25-year mandatory time is a very old bit of legislation. We are not really sure; it is a minimum time. The minister knows that time is not up until December of this year and yet that project is going ahead.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Kerrio: Why did we not have public hearings and why is the project under way before the 25 years have elapsed?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I am rather surprised the question was phrased in such a way as possibly to suggest that we have a comparison between the Runnymede development and the Malvern soil problem. As I am sure the member is aware, there is no evidence of that. Let us not develop any kind of question in the public mind that there is even a low level of radioactivity at that site. I want to put that part to rest only because the question was phrased in such a way as to include it.

With respect to the second part of the question, where the member raised the point about the public hearings, that is a municipal council decision. Under the Planning Act, it would be the requirement of the municipal council to determine whether it wanted to have public input. It is left to its jurisdiction. For this type of development, there is no requirement on our part to go through a public hearing process.

PESTICIDE SPRAYING

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, my question is for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. I am sure he will know that the federal Department of National Health and Welfare has said that Mesurol is a highly toxic substance and therefore has prohibited its use by fruit farmers in Canada for spray as a bird repellent. He also likely knows that after allegations were made that it was being used illegally in the Niagara Peninsula, there was a rather complete examination done by the federal department and it found those allegations to be totally incorrect in every instance.

Does the minister not agree there is a real danger to the public and in fact a real injustice being done to our producers in this province by permitting small fruits that have been sprayed with Mesurol to be imported from the United States and elsewhere, with only infrequent spot checks being done?

Will the minister tell this House what representations he has made to the federal government on this matter and what measures he has taken or proposes to take to stop all sales of such imports unless it is certified that Mesurol has not been used on them?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, the question raised by the honourable member is a very good one; it is a very valid point. I might say it is a broader issue involving more than just this particular substance. I can think of an instance going back two years ago when the levels of vomitoxins in Ontario wheat were a concern of the federal government of the day. Yet at that time, they were allowing baked goods to be imported into Canada from the United States which had been made from wheat with much higher levels of vomitoxins than we would have permitted to have been used here.

We have made representations to the federal government on this issue, and it is one that I will be taking up again with the new federal minister. We do not have the full authority in this area, of course, as the member is well aware, but it is a very valid point.

Mr. Swart: In fact, the minister does have authority in this area. He has the power to prohibit the sale of imported fruit, such as many California grapes that are coming in now and have been sprayed with Mesurol.

I remind him of regulation 332 of the Farm Products Grade and Sales Act, which is his legislation; it applies to such things as imported blueberries, grapes and cherries and says, "No person shall sell or offer for sale any produce that is affected as to be unfit for human consumption"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I do not think this is an appropriate time to read the regulation. Place your question, please.

Mr. Swart: Perhaps you will let me read one more sentence, Mr. Speaker—"or shows evidence of any foreign substance in an amount injurious to the public health"—

Mr. Speaker: Order. I am sure the minister is aware of the regulation. Please place your question.

Mr. Swart: What testing has his ministry done for Mesurol on imported small fruits on the shelves or elsewhere? Why does the minister not just prevent the sale of imported fruit on which a toxic chemical has been used that is banned in this nation so as to protect our citizens and at the same time give our producers an even break?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First of all, my information is that Mesurol is not registered for use on any crops in the state of California; so let us deal with that first of all.

Second, the staff of my ministry inspection branch has been working with the federal government. The member may be sure we will do everything within our power to ensure that unsafe foods as such are not sold in this province and we will do everything possible to ensure the federal government carries out its responsibilities in this area, which responsibilities in fact are far greater than ours.

Mr. McGuigan: Mr. Speaker, does the minister not realize the problem is not the problem that was outlined by the questioner? Last summer when the food and drug people did tests on imported fruits to determine whether they had been treated with Mesurol, at least when they came across the border there was no Mesurol on them. We do a great deal of testing with the food and drug people, and I am quite confident that those materials are not coming over on the food products, even though they may be used.

11 a.m.

Does the minister not realize that the problem with minor chemicals is that it costs millions of dollars to test them in Canada? That is where the problem lies. We need some federal-provincial money to go into testing programs to determine whether or not those materials are safe to be used in Canada. We suspect they are safe, but we do not know they are safe because we have different climatic conditions here. A material that is safe in the United States might not be safe here.

Would the minister co-operate with the federal people to have these minor chemicals tested? That is the real problem.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, first of all, as the honourable member is well aware, the co-operative efforts of this government and the federal government in the total area of agricultural research is a very long-standing relationship, and I think it has been a very productive relationship.

Second, I had a meeting a week ago today in Ottawa with the new Minister of Agriculture, the Honourable John Wise, at which time we discussed a wide range of issues. I was quite heartened by a statement Mr. Wise made at that time, indicating that to the extent he has any flexibility in his department with respect to availability of staff, his two priorities will be in the areas of inspection and research. The member may be sure we will take him up on that in this and other areas of agricultural research.

DEVELOPMENTALLY HANDICAPPED

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Community and Social Services. I think the minister would perhaps agree with me that the measure of a society's compassion is usually its treatment of handicapped and disadvantaged individuals.

In the Niagara Peninsula it has been brought to my attention by parents and the associations for the mentally retarded that there are requirements before us for 16 children in the children's core residence, 20 adults waiting for the adult core residence program, 41 adults waiting for the adult group home and 15 adults waiting for an adult training home. In view of the fact that there is so much need by the mentally retarded people in the Niagara Peninsula at the present time, when is the minister going to provide the necessary funding to meet those genuine needs?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I received a letter on this yesterday from the member. In fact, the last paragraph of his letter was his first sentence today.

We are looking at the provision of additional community facilities in the Niagara region, but I expect the member to provide a leadership role there—and I am sure he is going to—along with us.

One of the difficulties is not just the provision of a particular bed or a particular site, it is the duplication and the number of associations that have grown up there. We have been working as a ministry, trying to get some common approaches such as where the locations of a core residence will be and who will be in it. There is no one community that can supply the entire—

Mr. Mancini: That is your job.

Hon. Mr. Drea: No, it is not my job.

Mr. Speaker: Never mind the interjections, please.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We have a partnership with associations. They have a very big say. We do not tell them where their sites are going to be. We work together in developing them.

There is no question that there are additional community facilities required in the Niagara Peninsula. We want to work together with the associations, particularly for the more difficult or the more substantially handicapped cases. We will be doing that.

Mr. Bradley: Because the minister has drawn it into his answer, I will touch on that a little bit in my supplementary.

Is the minister using his desire to force the amalgamation of the associations for the mentally retarded as an excuse not to provide the funding that has been required for the last three, four or five years?

Does the minister not recognize that the enthusiasm for the program of deinstitutionalization, which I think everyone pretty well agreed was a good program, is waning because there are not these facilities in the community to meet those needs? Does the minister recognize there are parents who are now themselves growing elderly and who are fearful that when they pass on or become incapacitated because of serious illness there is not going to be a provision for their children, who themselves are becoming older and are into their 30s and 40s? Does he not recognize that only immediate funding from the ministry is going to solve an immediate concern these people have?

Hon. Mr. Drea: First, the member has things a little bit mixed up. We do not force any amalgamation.

Mr. Bradley: You are trying to.

Hon. Mr. Drea: We are not. We are asking them to look at it. When one is going to provide a

core residence that no one community can put its people into, it has to be located somewhere. They have to come together on some things like this. We are not forcing them to do anything.

Mr. Bradley: That is not what they say.

Hon. Mr. Drea: That may very well be, but I am telling the member we are not forcing them.

Second, I am absolutely delighted the Liberal Party is now in favour of deinstitutionalization. I appreciate that very much.

Third, the people we are talking about are not deinstitutionalized people. They have not come out of institutions.

Mr. Bradley: I know that.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: It is magnificent that the member knows that, but that is not what he said and we want to have the record straight.

They are not deinstitutionalized people. The point the member raised about parents becoming older is a very valid one. That concerns me a great deal. There are also some more substantially handicapped people who can now live in the community because of the development of more things by this ministry than before. That has also brought about a need for more facilities in the community.

I want to tell the member, just as we moved to meet demands in the greater Metropolitan Toronto area this year, we are looking at the Niagara Peninsula. There are going to have to be some choices made, particularly in the location. I am asking him, and I hope he will do it, to help provide some leadership.

Mr. Bradley: I am providing the leadership. I am saying provide funds. That is what leadership is all about.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, the minister will know that one of the community services for the handicapped which is a desperate need is a participation house. He also knows the capital money has been available for this for a long period of time. All that is required to get it under way is a commitment for the funding for the operation from his ministry.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Swart: Can the minister tell us when that funding will be available? Will that be available next year?

Hon. Mr. Drea: First, that is not related to this question. The participation house has nothing to do with the developmentally handicapped and the provision of their services in the Niagara

Peninsula. I will look into the matter for the member and try to be as helpful as I can.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS

Mr. Philip: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Revenue concerning the small business development corporation program he administers.

The minister will be aware that the Clarkson Gordon evaluation of small business development corporation programs states that the SBDC does not contain any reporting requirements for the small businesses involved and recommends an increase in the frequency of auditing small businesses. It also states that the frequency of audits is insufficient and a full audit cycle would take five to 12 years at current rates.

Will the minister tell the House what steps he has taken to correct this inefficiency in his ministry?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the member's question, and he is certainly quite correct in his reference to the report. I wish he had gone further and stated the very positive report that was submitted on behalf of SBDCs. He has touched on perhaps the one criticism that has been made by Clarkson Gordon. We in the ministry are reviewing this recommendation and will be coming forward with whatever changes are necessary.

11:10 a.m.

Mr. Philip: What the minister fails to say is that this report also says the degree of misuse cannot be estimated accurately. The report suggests that a broader and more frequent audit program be implemented and that, if the program has been abused, funds are likely to have long since disappeared before the first audit occurs.

Since the province already has \$69 million invested in this program, is he now prepared to state that he will implement the recommendations of Clarkson Gordon before we have all kinds of money disappearing without knowing where this investment is disappearing to?

Hon. Mr. Gregory: Mr. Speaker, I am quite satisfied, as is the staff of my ministry, that the program is working extremely well. The degree of loss has been very minimal. I think the honourable member will recall that in the spring, when a question came up regarding a small business development corporation, I believe the members of the opposition were quite surprised—they must have been surprised because they did not ask me any more questions—with the speed at

which the matter was rectified and government money was recovered.

It must be realized, of course, that the SBDC program deals with risk capital, and in dealing with risk capital we must expect some risk. Naturally, there are going to be some losses. The losses sustained by that program have been very minimal and I am quite excited by the results.

As to the direct question on whether we will increase the amount of auditing on the program, I am not prepared to say we will at the present time. We are certainly examining the report with a view to adopting recommendations as we see fit.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Community and Social Services about the reduction in certain programs in the Brantford and Brant county area pertaining to the children's aid society.

Is he aware that the spectrum of programs called PEPPI, which is directed to assisting young people with behavioural problems, is being phased out and a number of parents have objected strenuously? I know the minister will be receiving letters, if he has not already had them.

Is he aware that the budget of the children's aid society in Brantford and Brant county has been pretty well strapped because of increasing costs, in part associated with high levels of unemployment and economic difficulties that the area has experienced, and this has led to a phasing out of these programs which involve two full-time people, a number of part-time workers and a large number of volunteers?

Would the minister undertake to look into the matter with an eye to increasing the funding specifically directed towards these very precious programs which have been so useful in the community?

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, I already have. There was a meeting, either yesterday or this morning, with the CAS to tell it additional moneys will be found for the programs. I think it was somewhat premature of anyone to say that the programs were going to be cut, and I know it appeared in the media. That was entirely premature. The question that was asked of the representative of the society was, "Why did you not come and see us? We do know your problems," particularly the ones that have been outlined by the honourable member. It is my understanding that the entire matter is now solved. The additional moneys are being found,

so the programs they were concerned about will continue.

I think those programs and much of the work of the society—

Mr. Speaker: I think that really answered the question. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Drea: —are excellent.

TAX GRANTS FOR SENIORS

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Treasurer. Since the property tax credit and the sales tax credit for senior citizens have not been increased in the last four years, does he not think it is time they were upgraded, taking into account the cost of living increases in that time?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, it may well be. That is something I will be beginning to look at in the next few weeks as we begin the budget process for 1985. We are reviewing that with the various ministries right now.

In fairness, I should remind the honourable member that there are a number of other programs that effectively assist the same people and which have been enriched during that time. It is a matter of striking the appropriate balance between who needs the money and where we are going to be spending some of that money. In any event, we review that every year, and I will be paying particular attention to it this year.

Mr. Di Santo: I do not know about the other programs the minister is talking about, but I know this is a blatant injustice because it is the only program that affects a large sector of our population. It has not been touched at all until now. I hope the minister will come in with a revision of the program pretty soon.

I would like to ask the minister that when he is reviewing this program he also take into consideration the people who are not senior citizens but who are disabled and receiving Canada pension benefits and who will not be going back into the work force. Can they become part of the same program? If not, can he explain why they are excluded?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: As the member knows we took some steps in our recent budget to assist the disabled in the same area. I would remind him that in terms of property tax credits, one of the difficult jobs of government is to make the determination of who most needs government assistance.

The member and others have drawn to our attention the people in society who really should be well up on the priority list for any additional funds available for assisting them. Many of those

people would not be among those one would want to list as beneficiaries of the property tax credit. The property tax credit does not always get those most in need, and the most in need are beneficiaries of other programs. We have chosen over the past few years to enrich the other programs instead of the property tax credit. The other programs seem to get those most in need most quickly.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

CHARTERED INDUSTRIAL DESIGNERS ACT

Mr. Cousens moved, seconded by Mr. Robinson, first reading of Bill Pr26, An Act respecting the Chartered Industrial Designers.

Motion agreed to.

11:20 a.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

House in committee of supply.

ESTIMATES, MINISTRY OF NORTHERN AFFAIRS

The Deputy Chairman: We are considering the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs, page G68. Does the minister have an opening statement?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do.

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present the 1984-85 estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I will be introducing to the House and to my critics in just a very few moments the names and titles of the various staff members I have with me. As we go through the review of these estimates, I am sure honourable members will want to know who my support staff are. I would like to identify them for the members.

I have with me my deputy minister, David Hobbs, who is now starting his third year as deputy minister. He was formerly an assistant deputy minister with the Ministry of Transportation and Communications and is one who is seen and heard extensively in northern Ontario.

Also with us in the gallery today are both of the assistant deputy ministers. Mr. Herb Aiken from Sault Ste. Marie is the assistant deputy minister for northeastern affairs and has an office in Sault Ste. Marie. Mr. Bill Lees is the assistant deputy minister for northwestern Ontario and—

Mr. Stokes: The minister should tell them we missed him and them at the opening in Schreiber.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I know. I regret I was not there. Nevertheless, while Bill and I were here doing other things, our funds were busy at

work in Schreiber. I think the honourable member recognizes the fact that the Ministry of Northern Affairs has in excess of \$1 million in that project.

Mr. Stokes: Yes, I mentioned it.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Bill Lees, as I said a moment ago, is the assistant deputy minister for the northwest, with offices in Kenora and Thunder Bay. Mr. Dennis Tieman from the Toronto regional office is also with us; he is the executive director of finance. Ms. Sheila Willis is our very able director of information services and one who is also seen travelling every corner of northern Ontario and having heavy responsibilities for Ontario North Now. Mrs. Dorothy Templeton is also with us; she is the executive assistant to the deputy minister, David Hobbs. Mr. Bill Stevenson is new to our ministry.

The members will be interested to know that Mr. Andy Morpurgo, who has been with this government for some 25 years, retired last night at a very pleasant and warm farewell party given by the ministry, staff and his friends throughout the government.

Mr. Stokes: Why were we not invited?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I am sorry my friend was not invited. We received letters of congratulations and warm expressions of thanks from a number of mayors and reeves from right across northern Ontario, which Mr. Morpurgo had served so well over his 25 years with the Ontario government and the last few years with the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

Replacing Mr. Morpurgo as director of strategic planning will be Mr. Bill Stevenson. The members will get to know him. He was formerly with the Ministry of Energy and is in the gallery with us today to listen to the members' remarks and support for the Ministry of Northern Affairs as we go through these examinations.

It is fair to say that these estimates are special in a sense since they are the last that will be heard in this House by two of what I think are and were the ministry's most sincere and toughest critics. I will send a copy of my remarks over to them.

As I was saying, these are the last estimates that will be heard in this House by two of the ministry's toughest critics but best supporters. With the retirement from political life of the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) and the announced retirement of the member for Rainy River (Mr. T. P. Reid), I can honestly say the ministry is losing two people whose job it was to criticize the ministry but whose true calling was to support the north. In that, we shared a very common interest.

Both men knew the north very well and have consistently represented the concerns of northerners in their respective ridings with dedication and persistence. Although they have disagreed with some of our policies and measures from time to time, it is fair to say they have been straightforward in their support for the Ministry of Northern Affairs as a delivery agency and as an advocate for northern Ontario.

This is the eighth time I have presented the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I have long ago stopped referring to us as a new ministry. Nevertheless, we are still young enough for me to give the members here today a kind of lifetime achievement report. In view of the departure of two of the ministry's original critics, this would be an appropriate way of summing up the ministry's activities over seven years to make it easier for them to memorize our accomplishments for later telling.

To do that, I will provide a sectoral description of the Ministry of Northern Affairs' programs and projects—

Mr. Stokes: For some strange reason, I get the distinct sense that the minister did not think I would be here today.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: No, I did not. I know that when the Ministry of Northern Affairs or anything about northern Ontario is discussed, the member for Lake Nipigon is always here. He is always making a contribution. I say that very sincerely.

I am giving honourable members the seven-year expenditure highlights as well as the estimates for next year's spending and accomplishments, but before I begin I want to give the members the bottom line.

By the end of the next fiscal year my ministry will have spent about \$1 billion on northern Ontario programs. The investment of that money in the north has made a difference in the lives and wellbeing of many northerners.

Our largest program area, transportation, touches on the lives of nearly all northerners. The almost unimaginable vastness of the north, the distance between communities and the obstacles to travel presented by the climate and the geography provide major challenges to our system designers and the carriers. The automobile is still the chief means of transportation in the north, as it is in the south. The roads are our highest transportation priority and expense.

In seven years the ministry has spent about \$500 million on the construction and rehabilitation of the King's highways, secondary highways and our northern priority roads. Next year's

allocation for these roads is \$64.6 million. This figure is a combined total of our northern roads budget and our northern priority roads budget, which comes under the transportation development portion of our northern economic development program.

This year, the northern roads budget was increased by \$4.2 million. The members will notice a dropoff in the funding for the northern priority roads. This is simply because construction has been completed or nearly completed on a number of major roads including, as I have said in this House a number of times before: the Detour Lake road, the Manitou road and Highway 631 in the northeast. Let me assure the members that the ministry will respond to the need for future good northern priority roads projects as they arise from time to time.

Over seven years the ministry has funded the construction of 486 kilometres of new roads, secondary highways and northern priority roads in northern Ontario. We have also funded the reconstruction of 2,709 kilometres of these roads. We have provided funds for the construction of 51 bridges, 84 passing lanes and 12 laybys under our new program to improve the safety of hauling pulp wood on our northern roads.

I might mention that this new program of laybys is going over exceptionally well in the northwest, where we have a tremendous amount of pulpwood hauling, particularly on the main highways. It allows the pulp truckers to come off the highway, check their loads and their vehicles and make sure the tiedowns are in proper place for the safety of the travelling public.

The overall safety and conditions of our northern highway system are high, as high as any jurisdiction in Ontario. This is remarkable when one considers that there are more than 10,000 kilometres of King's and secondary highways in northern Ontario.

Our northern roads are vital not just to the residents of the north but also to the many tourists and travellers in the transcontinental rubber-tire traffic. Tourism, economic development and social patterns all depend on a safe and reliable road system for their existence and progress, and that is what this program attempts to provide.

Other roads we fund come under the heading of resource access roads to reach mature forest stands for logging or prospective mining sites.

In seven years, through our support for the ministry forest access program and the Canada-Ontario forest management program, we have helped fund the construction of 2,430 kilometres of forest access roads. We anticipate an addi-

tional 290 kilometres will be constructed under both programs in the 1984-85 fiscal year.

The construction of these roads has provided 22,733 man-years of employment over seven years. By providing access to mature and overmature timber stands, the forest access roads also help to stabilize employment in the forest industry by ensuring a steady wood supply for our many mills throughout the north.

Our expenditures on the ministry forest access program and the Canada-Ontario forest management program have been \$64.6 million over seven years, and next year's expenditures are estimated at \$13.8 million.

11:30 a.m.

Another program funded by the ministry that supports the construction of forest and mine access roads is the northern Ontario resource transportation committee, commonly known as NORT. NORT has been responsible in whole or part for the construction of 4,769 kilometres of roads in the north since 1977. NORT is also a funding agency for the construction of winter roads and skidoo trails in remote areas beyond the road network.

Since 1977, we have funded the construction of 3,395 kilometres of winter roads and 669 kilometres of winter trails, providing economic and social links to seven isolated northern communities: Sandy Lake, Round Lake, Deer Lake, Pikangikum and Fort Albany, Attawapiskat and Kashechewan in the northeast. This year NORT's budget is up by \$500,000.

In other areas of transportation, my ministry provides support for the operating expenditures of some of the noncommercial carriers of the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission. These include norOntair, the passenger rail services in the northeast and the Chi-Cheemaun ferry, which operates from Tobermory to South Baymouth.

Some idea of the importance of these services to the people of the north can be had from looking at the ridership figures over seven years. For instance, norOntario has flown more than 12.8 million miles in seven years and has carried 716,975 passengers. When the ministry was formed, norOntario served 16 communities. Now it serves 21, and we will take delivery in two weeks' time of the first two Dash-8s, Canada's newest airplane.

In the area of rail, the ridership figures are also impressive. More than one million people have travelled the Northlander or the Northland train over the past seven years. An estimated 145,000 will use the services next year. In this area too,

brand-new, made-in-Ontario equipment will soon be introduced when we take delivery of two new bilevel train sets, to be manufactured by the Urban Transportation Development Corp. in the Thunder Bay plant for 1986.

The ONTC ferry Chi-Cheemaun was busy as usual last summer. Over seven years, the Chi-Cheemaun has carried 1.6 million passengers and more than 500,000 vehicles. Next year we anticipate she will transport 240,000 passengers and 80,000 vehicles.

Our expenditures for all these passenger services over seven years has been \$113.9 million, and we have allocated \$25.3 million for next year.

The last element in our transportation program is our remote and community airport construction program. Since we took over the Ministry of Transportation and Communications "highways in the sky" program in 1977, 19 remote airports in northern Ontario have been brought into operation; one more will be added next year to serve a cumulative population of some 12,000 people.

We have also funded 16 municipal airport construction projects in the north since 1977, worth an estimated \$23 million. Several projects are planned for next year at Marathon, Manitouwadge, Geraldton and Nestor Falls. We have allocated \$145,000 for these airports.

Northern Ontario's strength lies in its people and its resources. Although much of my ministry's efforts are directed at reducing our dependence on those resources, none the less we regard creating resource-based industry and employment as an equally important task.

Thus in forestry, as I have mentioned, we have supported the development of hundreds of kilometres of forest access roads. Through the Canada-Ontario forest management program, we have also funded the expansion of nurseries in the north, the expansion of shipping and storage facilities for containerized seedlings and the upgrading of irrigation systems. These projects have increased seedling production in our northern nurseries by seven million over a few years.

One hundred additional nursery acres in northern Ontario are being irrigated as a result of MNA funding under the forest management program. Two irrigation systems have been improved at Swastika and Dryden. Five additional container greenhouses have been built, also at Dryden. Needless to say, these projects are adding to Ontario's regeneration program, providing jobs now and for the future.

In mining, the north's other great resource sector, the Ministry of Northern Affairs has played important roles in the development of two of the largest gold mines on this continent. We have funded the construction of the Detour Lake road, and we are co-ordinating an intergovernmental committee to ensure orderly and profitable growth in the Hemlo area for those communities affected by the current boom.

For years the Ministry of Northern Affairs has also supported a number of programs under the Ontario Geological Survey. Our expenditures for these programs have been in the order of \$11.6 million. A more important figure is this one: since 1977, 212,000 claims have been staked in northern Ontario and more than eight million man-days of assessment work have been done.

In another important resource area, the Ministry of Northern Affairs has done much with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to help develop northern farming. We have supported more than 20 different agricultural programs and projects, the latest being AgriNorth, a three-year, \$10-million program of our two ministries that is expected to provide benefits to more than 3,500 of northern Ontario's approximately 4,000 farmers.

If the members have not seen our brochure, I will be glad to provide them with copies of it. It is well done and it is being well received right across northern Ontario. I might say the AgriNorth program was the agricultural component of the old program known as the northern Ontario rural development agreement. As members know, NORDA was funded 50:50 by the province and the federal government. It was exceptionally well received.

Mr. Stokes: That is not entirely true. Has the minister talked to the Dryden farmers?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes. They liked it. There are certain things we had to change in the approach. They wanted to do much of the work themselves, and we thought it should be contracted out. I think we got that straightened out.

Mr. Stokes: And the tile drainage?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, that is going very well.

I also want to point out that we tried to renegotiate the NORDA program. The then minister suggested a three-month extension; he might even have considered a six-month extension, which obviously was not what we were looking for. We were looking for something with a much longer term. That was one of the reasons we had to go it alone in the AgriNorth program

and in the northern Ontario regional economic development program, which I will come to.

I have not heard what the new federal government's position will be with respect to cost-sharing programs such as NORDA, Nordev and these other ones. We will be meeting with them in the next few months.

Mr. Kerrio: I heard them say, "Just name it and you have got it."

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Is that right? I think they will be very receptive to some of our suggestions. I think over there they think as we do now and they think like the rest of Canada.

Mr. Kerrio: A food terminal in Timmins?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Maybe.

Mr. Stokes: One thing about it is that the minister will not be able to kick them around any more.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: They will not need any kicking, because I think they will listen. That will be a change.

Finally, in the important area of energy and energy conservation, the Ministry of Northern Affairs has provided funds for 18 small-scale energy projects since 1977. The latest of these, called Heat Save North, is being launched today in New Liskeard. That is the reason my parliamentary assistant the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) is not with us; he is representing me at that event.

I turn now to the ministry's efforts on behalf of northern Ontario tourism. The subject of many conferences, debates and newspaper articles, tourism in the north is not just an opportunity but a real challenge if we are to rescue many small towns from dependence on a single resource.

The Ministry of Northern Affairs works very closely with groups like the Northern Ontario Tourist Outfitters Association, Kenora District Camp Owners Association, the Ontario travel associations and municipal groups to tailor our tourism programs to their needs. We do not duplicate what the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation has to offer; rather, we try to fill in some of the gaps and address some special northern Ontario needs.

11:40 a.m.

For seven years we have provided funds for 44 capital facilities, including Minaki Lodge. If I might deviate for a moment, I would point out to members that if they are thinking about going to Minaki next year they should book now, because the occupancy rate for that great wilderness recreational convention centre in the month of August was 97 per cent. It was impossible to get

into it. It will be a success story that will equal Ontario Place, mark my words. It is going over exceptionally well.

In fact, I was told just yesterday that in the second year of operation we may even show a profit, which we did not expect until the third or fourth year.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: Just to correct the record on a remark the minister just made, he said his parliamentary assistant the member for Fort William would be in New Liskeard today. I want to report to you that the honourable member is sitting in his seat. He is fogged in. The good people from New Liskeard will have to try to struggle along without him.

The Deputy Chairman: That is a legitimate point of order.

Mr. Hennessy: Mr. Chairman, on a point of order: I went to the airport, waited an hour and we could not get out so I came back. I knew the member for Lake Nipigon would be here so I had to show up.

The Deputy Chairman: That is good clarification.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I knew my parliamentary assistant was making a very honest effort to fulfil his responsibilities, but the weather being what it is, I am sure he shares the problem that all of us share with respect to travelling in northern Ontario.

Mr. Kerrio: Were there any Canadians at Minaki?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Oh yes. I must tell him. I am so enthused about Minaki really. It is such a success story, it is unbelievable. Last year about seven per cent of the visitors to that great facility came from the United States. This year it was over 30 per cent, about 34 per cent. Some people from the United States were coming for as long as a whole month. Many stayed for two weeks and some were staying for a whole month. It gives us some idea that, with the exchange on the American dollar, it makes a very good holiday for them.

Mr. Stokes: How much did they make last year?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Profits? There was no profit last year. The projections were that there would not be a profit until the third or fourth year. This year they have projected there may be a slight profit.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, I would like to be recognized on an extension of the point raised by the New Democratic Party critic.

The Deputy Chairman: Is this like a point of order?

Mr. Van Horne: Point of information, point of view, whatever.

The Deputy Chairman: I am recognizing the member for London North.

Mr. Van Horne: The cost of Minaki has been bandied around and the minister was talking about its success. Has he a final dollar cost for Minaki?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Chairman, I do not have that with me at the moment, but I am sure we can get it before the estimates are completed.

I just want to make a couple of points on the cost. I get very upset when I read in the media where they talk about \$40-odd million being spent on Minaki and \$15-odd million being pumped into a road. The road had to be built to serve, and will serve, the Whitedog Indian reservation. I am sure members would not object to a decent road going into a reservation that has about 800 to 900 people. The number of tourist operations and tourist camps along that road is phenomenal. It is all part of a transportation network and part of a planning process. It has been in place for many years.

We accelerated the construction of that road. The cost came in because of the acceleration. Nevertheless, that road would have been built. They tied that road construction cost to Minaki Lodge. It is unfair. The airstrip would have been developed anyway in the course of time. It is a beautiful airstrip now that services that whole area. It requires an airstrip and it is all tied to Minaki Lodge. So the \$20-odd million we used to renovate and develop Minaki Lodge to what it is today was money well spent.

Go up to Kenora. Go up to Minaki and see the dollar return today and the enthusiasm, the robust industry it has generated. In Minaki and Kenora, there is a whole new attitude, a whole new enthusiasm. In fact, they are so enthusiastic that the local people applied for a major Board of Industrial Leadership and Development grant, which was approved just last week, for \$3.2 million to improve the waterfront facilities at Kenora. It is all part of the tourism package that the government has recognized and the local people have recognized.

If I may go back to my comments and refer to the 44 capital facilities we have assisted, they include the development of the Fort Vermillion and Fort Frances tourist information centres. We have funded over 214 other tourism projects, including Ontario North Now, sports and ski show participation and marketing grants under

the northern Ontario rural development agreement. We are allocating \$3.2 million for the next year.

With NORDA now lapsed, the members will be aware that the best of its tourism sports programs have been picked up as part of a new program funded solely by this ministry called Nordev, the northern Ontario regional economic development program, which I referred to a few moments ago and about which I will have more to say in a few minutes.

Right now, I would like to turn from this discussion to what are really regional programs to describe some of the ministry's community-based programs.

I will begin with industry development, which aims at diversifying northern Ontario's economy by working with municipalities to identify and develop opportunities on a smaller scale at the local level.

A key thrust in this direction is the northern community economic development program. This program provides advice as well as funds for business opportunity studies, consultants and the publication of municipal profiles. Initiated only a year and a half ago, the program has already provided professional consulting services to 30 communities and financial aid to 13 of these. We plan to enter into discussions with a further 30 communities next year and hope to provide funds to 23 of these.

We have also assisted seven northern Ontario communities over the years with the cost of servicing industrial parks or malls. I mentioned Nordev a moment ago. This new program of economic development assistance was announced just this past summer. Already, we have approved 10 worthwhile projects worth \$2 million and creating 114 new permanent jobs. This is just the beginning. Nordev took over the best programs under the old NORDA program that I referred to.

Again, I would remind the members that Nordev is 100 per cent funded by the Ministry of Northern Affairs. It reaches into the heart of the small business sector in the north to fund good, nonretail, resource-based businesses that are creating jobs and adding to the local economy. We expect to approve 80 to 100 projects before this fiscal year is over.

Fundamental to the development of industry and population in any community is the need for safe water and sewer facilities. It is a fact of life that in the north these services are more expensive to install and harder to pay for because of the smaller tax bases in many communities.

That is why Northern Affairs has helped to offset the cost of 158 water and sewer projects in the north since 1977. There are 20 such projects planned for 1984-85 and \$9.5 million has been budgeted for them. The total seven-year expenditure in this area is more than \$95 million.

The member for Lake Nipigon referred to the extra assistance my ministry gave to his own home town of Schreiber, which I think he will agree really made it happen. It would not have happened without that extra assistance. That is happening right across the north.

Under our community infrastructure program, we have also funded 15 other projects, including the Hornpayne town centre and several storefront improvement projects.

Water and sewage projects do not gain much visibility or arouse much emotion, but health and social issues certainly do.

With the Ministry of Health, we have made great gains in providing a much higher level of health care self-sufficiency in northern Ontario. Since 1977, my ministry has provided funding for 40 medical and dental clinics in northern Ontario. We have awarded 351 health specialist bursaries to get young doctors and dentists to practise in the north for one or two years. Many of those doctors and dentists have stayed.

We have sponsored five health recruitment tours by northern municipality representatives to our southern Ontario universities. We begin our sixth next week. This tour, co-ordinated by our staff and with officials of the Ministry of Health, enables these municipal representatives to sign up doctors on campus to try the north and many have very positive results.

11:50 a.m.

If I might just deviate for a minute, I will point out to the members that at the recent northern affairs conference held in Meadow Lake, Saskatchewan, the delegation from Alberta was quick to point out to us during our discussions that it had sent a team down last year to look at our medical recruitment program, the one I just spoke about, where we bring municipalities down and put them face to face with the medical students right on campus.

They came down and they copied our program right to the nth degree. They put it in place this year and they were ecstatic at the results, because they have attracted 12 new doctors into northern Alberta. It is that kind of initiative and creativeness that we have in this ministry, and indeed this government, that is being copied right across Canada.

They paid us another compliment which I have to share with the member because I know he is enthusiastic about northern affairs. They pointed out to us that they received more positive suggestions, direction and ideas from this province than from any other province in Canada with respect to northern needs of their province.

They are looking at the fire protection program we have in the small, unorganized communities. They are also going to come down and look at the EldCap program, which they think is very exciting and very applicable to those areas in northern Alberta and northern Saskatchewan and Manitoba. I just point that out because it was very encouraging to hear them say it without being prompted in any way.

Our air ambulance program is certainly an object of interest and envy. Since its inception in 1981, 24,743 patient transfers have been made within and out of northern Ontario. Our figures indicate that approximately 97,000 additional people in the north have benefited from the increased access to health and social services through MNA-funded programs since the ministry was funded.

Last Friday, I was in Sioux Lookout to announce final approval for the addition of 20 extended care beds to the Sioux Lookout General Hospital under our EldCap program. Four other hospitals, in Geraldton, Dryden, Atikokan and Smooth Rock Falls, are also proceeding with EldCap additions. Altogether, this program will add 98 extended care beds to these communities.

I want to stress that the EldCap program is unique in Ontario. It was designed and presented right here in northern Ontario by northerners, for northerners. Because it is a unique program, we have not been able just to duplicate the plan as if we were constructing McDonald's restaurants. Each project presents its own special features. In most cases, extensive redesign and reconstruction of the entire hospital is made necessary to allow for the repositioning of service stations, traffic patterns and so on. In some cases, the size and scope of the hospitals is being doubled under the EldCap program.

All of this takes time and our hospital boards and the Ministry of Health staff work to high standards. At this stage, all five projects are well advanced with most planning to be under construction next year.

It has been stated that the health programs funded by the Ministry of Northern Affairs impact on nearly 220,000 people. That is about one quarter of the population of the north. It is a good proportion, but we are not claiming that

more cannot be done in this vital area. We have plans to fund five more medical and dental centres in northern Ontario next year. We will award 71 health specialist bursaries and, with our colleagues at the Ministry of Health, we will continue to find ways to reduce the disparities in the delivery of some services between the north and the south.

We provide assistance to northern communities in other areas. For instance, we help the Ontario Northland Transportation Commission bring microwave facilities to the communities on the James Bay coast to provide radio, television and telephone services to these isolated settlements. We provide assistance for cultural programs such as the one we share with TVOntario to bring its programming into small northern communities by satellite to low-power rebroadcast transmitters. So far, 136 communities have taken advantage of this program and we expect to approve a further 37 during the 1984-85 fiscal year.

As a byproduct of this program we have helped Wawatay—I am sure the member for Lake Nipigon is interested—a native radio network, broadcast its signal right from Sioux Lookout by satellite to 16 remote reserves. This is very unique in that the TV signal is bounced off the satellite and there is room on that signal to attach two FM radio signals. It uses the same dish. It is basically the same rebroadcasting system and it all works from down here. The signal goes up and back at something like 44,000 miles. That is in place.

We had an official opening about a month ago, and it was very interesting to hear the chiefs reporting to their communities first hand and live from Sioux Lookout. Following days of meetings with various government staffs, they went to the radio station and reported back. The whole community knew what the chief was doing, and they are doing this on a regular basis, so it has opened up the north into a whole new area of communication. There is no question of the technical expertise of TVO—the technicians there were the ones who devised it—and I certainly want to compliment them on it.

Finally, my ministry has been able to make significant contributions to those areas of the north designated as unorganized communities; that is, communities or population clusters having no municipal structure or tax base. These communities have special concerns. They require the same basic services we do, but they lack the funds to acquire them. More to the point, they lack the mechanism that would allow them to

raise those funds and be eligible for government grants. To address that need, this ministry introduced the local services boards program in 1980. It was enacted in 1981 and has gone a long way towards alleviating the immediate need for basic services in many of the north's 158 unorganized communities.

The local services boards program, as it is known, allows these communities to raise money to cover the operating costs of essential services such as fire protection, water supply, street lighting and recreation. Thirty-three communities have formed LSBs since the program was started. The LSB program complements our unorganized community assistance program, which provides a capital grant to acquire the services I just mentioned. Fire protection is undoubtedly chief among these, and I am proud of what my ministry, working through the fire marshal's office, has been able to achieve.

Since 1977, 35 fire trucks have been provided to the unorganized communities in the north. An additional 13 will be delivered this fiscal year and, as I announced during last year's estimates, by next year we will have completed delivery of fire vehicles to all eligible unorganized communities.

In smaller communities, we have provided fire packages, 66 in all since 1977, with two planned for delivery this year. We have provided support for 12 regional training schools for the volunteer firemen who give their time to their communities, and we have enabled 90 teams to be trained through these schools.

In total, 106 unorganized communities have been provided with some form of basic fire protection to date, helping not only to reduce the risk of personal injury and damage to property by fire in those communities, but also to reduce insurance rates.

It is interesting to note that the nearly 100 fire teams in northern Ontario's unorganized areas constitute what is the largest fire department in North America, covering what is undoubtedly the largest land mass.

Our total expenditures for services to unorganized areas since 1977 have been \$4.3 million. To accelerate the fire protection component of the program, as I described, and provide operating subsidies to the local services boards, we have allocated \$2.6 million for the 1984-85 fiscal year.

The one program I have not mentioned in these estimates is our northern affairs office network. Our 29 officers do an excellent job of providing a one-window storefront government information

and assistance service to the residents of the north. In the smaller communities particularly, they are for many people the only government contact for most programs. The NAOs happen to be down here today for their annual staff conference, so northern members should keep an eye out for their local officer as he may be walking in the halls of Queen's Park.

My final words today will be on a special project of the Ministry of Northern Affairs in honour of Ontario's bicentenary. On October 30, I will be joining with Laurentian and Lakehead universities, and I hope the chairman of the bicentennial committee, the former Honourable Margaret Birch, will join me—

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: She is still honourable to me. She is always honourable. I still think they should have given you a real title, Margaret.

12 noon

On October 30 I will be joining with Laurentian and Lakehead universities to launch our bicentennial book on northern Ontario, entitled *A Vast and Magnificent Land*. This book is a hard-cover, 224-page history in words and pictures put together by the two universities with assistance from the ministry. Our support will enable the book to be priced reasonably, so practically anyone can afford a copy.

Before our two retiring critics rush out to order theirs, I want to tell them I will be sending them their own copies of the first limited press run with my compliments before they leave. I might even include the new critic from the official opposition party, the member for London North (Mr. Van Horne).

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Sign both of them.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Yes, I will make sure I sign both copies.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He will autograph them personally.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: I will autograph them. The member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch) and I will both sign them. I know they will want to keep them as a valuable bit of information and a remembrance of this bicentennial year.

This book will be of interest to people all over northern Ontario. Its editors, Ernest Epp, who is now the federal member for Thunder Bay-Nipigon riding, and Matt Bray, have done a tremendous job of marshalling the forces of their respective universities to make this a first-class product. The book contains hundreds of photographs, many of which were contributed by

individuals who took the time to get involved in the project.

That concludes my remarks on the 1984-85 estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. Naturally, I welcome comments and constructive and positive criticism from our friends across the House, and I am sure they will provide that.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to participate once again in these estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs. I would like to send to the minister and to the member for Lake Nipigon the outline of my presentation. If I could have a page, I will send them forward.

While these notes are being sent to the minister and the New Democratic Party critic, I would like to begin by recognizing the service provided by the member for Lake Nipigon not only to his community in the riding of Nipigon, but also to the other 14 ridings of northern Ontario. He has chosen to leave politics at the end of this parliament, provincial politics, at any rate; whether he does anything else, only time will tell.

I think it is appropriate and fair to say he has served his community, he has served the north and he has served this Legislature very well, and he should be commended for that. I say this in all sincerity. Although we may not always agree with the exact wording of the member, we have to agree, at least in principle, with what he is about, because he certainly does know the north and he does know how to present the case for the needs of the citizens of the north. I thank him for doing that and I wish him well in his retirement.

I would also like to make very brief reference to my colleague the member for Rainy River, who is choosing to leave politics at the end of this month. He has also served his community and the north generally in a very appropriate and thorough way. He has served our caucus very well too. I am sure it is trite to say he has been the lone voice of the Ontario Labour-Liberal Party for some years. He has presented the case for that particular philosophy very well.

We wish him well in his new undertaking with the Ontario Mining Association. He will still have some contact with this chamber after the end of this month. We all look forward to seeing exactly how that works out. I am sure he will serve that industry well and will continue to keep in touch with us.

Finally, while I am in such a benevolent mood, I would like to make reference to Mr. Morpurgo, who retired after 25 years of service in the ministry. It is unfortunate that neither the

member for Lake Nipigon nor I was aware of the event of last evening, because we would have liked to have at least sent along some congratulatory notes if we could not attend, but we will be sure not only to recognize his service to the north and to the ministry by making reference to him here in the chamber, but we will also send a personal note of good wishes along to him.

It is always interesting to hear the minister make his presentation and his case for the north. He is very good at accentuating the positive, as the old song goes. I am sure the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) recalls the good old songs from the good old days: "Accentuate the positive, eliminate the negative." He has done that very well. He always does that very well. He accentuates the positive.

It is our role as the opposition to make him, this chamber and those who happen to read Hansard mindful of areas we perceive still to be areas of need. Whereas the minister's comments are on the upside, let me present an opposite view in the next 30 or 40 minutes. I will try not to digress too much from these notes. If I do, I am sure the minister or the Chairman will put me back on track.

Let me make some introductory remarks by observing the 41 years of Conservative government in Ontario, which we consider to be 41 years of government neglect. We feel that northern Ontario's legacy has been an economy starving of a firm injection of secondary industry to stabilize its boom and bust existence, based on primary resource extraction.

The north has been denied its fair share of Ontario's prosperity. Most resource development decisions have been made in the interests of the more populated southern part of the province and with a view of the north as a hinterland rather than a homeland.

Although there have been countless reports about northern Ontario from government committees, task forces and boards, the government's ad hoc policies have amounted to little more than profiles in failure. We will make reference later to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment to prove our case in making a statement such as that.

The lack of diversity in northern Ontario's industrial development is largely responsible for the area's weak economic structure. Job opportunities are limited and the principal source of employment continues to be the capital-intensive mining and forestry sectors, and these resources continue to be depleted.

Northern Ontario has virtually been treated as a colony of the south and the provincial government has never made an honest attempt to make northern Ontario more than a provider of resources. Northerners are still hewers of wood and carriers of water.

The government's futile attempts at decentralization have been little more than cosmetic, while retaining real decision-making power with the centralized bureaucracy in Toronto.

12:10 p.m.

One wonders whether statements such as that are responsible for the northern Ontario population decline or, if not decline, almost a zero-growth situation. According to the latest population figures, northern Ontario's population in 1981 stood at 819,576 or an increase of only 2,435, or 0.3 per cent, people since the last census in 1976. This is the smallest five-year increase in population for northern Ontario since the Second World War. Over the same period, Ontario's population increased by 4.4 per cent, or 306,642.

Northern Ontario's total population, as I indicated, has remained fairly stable since 1971, when it was 806,719. This means that northern Ontario has not kept pace with its natural increase; that is to say nearly as many people have left northern Ontario in the past 10 years as has been the natural increase of approximately 75,000. People have been forced to leave the region because there simply are no job opportunities there for them.

As I indicated in my introductory comments, the major concern, or one of the major concerns, that we as an opposition have is the economy of the north. The overriding concern of the majority of northern Ontario residents who communicate with us is the declining state of its economy.

The major problem continues to be the one-industry syndrome. Most areas of the north are devoid of a diversified economic structure and are subject to the wild fluctuations of the national and international market for the resources it can provide. Therefore, there is a clear need to diversify the economic base in the north to mitigate these problems and to retrain workers in the vital resource industries.

Provincial assistance for single-industry communities has been promised since 1977. The program, finally unveiled by the Minister of Northern Affairs (Mr. Bernier) on June 14, 1983, provided little more than words of encouragement. After boasting that the ministry had for six years been providing assistance for transportation, water and sewer projects in the north—assis-

tance which is provided as a matter of course to all municipalities in the province—the minister went on to say that \$750,000 would be made available to allow "our professional staff help communities become aware of and get in touch with other government agencies providing specific industrial development programs."

This was the entire extent of the long-awaited community economic development program—an amount of money equal to three hours' worth of interest on the provincial debt to provide services. The minister admitted, "We have been doing a lot of this until now on an ad hoc basis." There are no new programs for economic diversification of the north, no new assistance schemes, just old services under a new name.

Let me go over to the theme of the Northern Ontario Development Corp. for a moment. Northern Ontario continues to be shortchanged by the NODC, which was established in November 1970 to promote economic development in the areas of the province north of the French River. We know that Parry Sound was added to this after 1970.

The degree of emphasis on northern development has been drastically reduced over the years. Since 1974-75, the first year in which all three corporations operated, NODC loans and guaranteed commitments have fallen from \$23,787,125 to \$10,652,254 in 1982-83. As a per cent of total corporation commitments, NODC's share was slashed by over half, from 27.5 per cent in 1974-75 to 13.5 per cent in 1982-83. By comparison, southern Ontario ODC commitments over the same period increased from \$40,498,223 to \$56,899,202, and the ODC share rose from 46.9 per cent to 71.9 per cent. This offers a clear indication of the government's much-reduced focus on northern development.

To move on to the theme of high costs in northern Ontario, high costs have become a disincentive to living in the north. It costs more to heat a house, drive a car or snowmobile and buy food in northern Ontario. It is a particular irritant to northerners that while beer prices, for example, can be equalized throughout the province, milk prices and fuel prices are not.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Would the Liberals do it? Would they equalize the prices of milk and fuel?

Mr. Van Horne: We will get to that point.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Would they equalize them? Yes or no.

Mr. Van Horne: Before the minister starts throwing questions out to me, asking for "yes" or "no" answers, as the person in charge, he has to answer the question, why is there such a

discrepancy? When someone can say that beer prices, for example, will be equalized—one pays the same for a case of 24 of whatever in London, Ontario, as one pays in Rainy River—why can the minister not make the same effort to level off and equalize the basic commodities such as milk?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: What would the Liberals do? Let the member put on the record what his party would do. I would like to see it.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He does not want to tell us.

Mr. Van Horne: The Minister of Education in her rather succinct way is suggesting that I do not want to tell the minister. In view of that voice of authority, let me simply suggest that I will continue with my notes.

Ontario Hydro rates, which are increasing at double the rate of inflation, are placing extraordinary hardships on the north. The north is virtually ignored when the Ontario Hydro board, in consultation with Conservative ministers, makes decisions on Hydro rates. In fact, a northern member of the Conservative government recently accused Ontario Hydro of engaging in "Mafia economics." This callousness must end.

Ontario Hydro rates are much higher than are the rates in the provinces on either side of our borders. While northern Ontario is charged an average of \$50 per 1,000 kilowatt-hours, northern Manitoba residents pay only \$34 and northern Quebecers \$39 for the same amount of power.

Ontario Hydro's rate increases have been much higher than those of Quebec and Manitoba. Hydro-Québec's rate increase in 1984 was 3.4 per cent. Manitoba had no rate increase for five years until 1983 when, to compensate, it raised rates by 9.5 per cent. That represents an annual average of 1.6 per cent over the six years and is quite a bit lower than Ontario Hydro's average of 9.3 per cent over the same period.

The Association of Major Power Consumers in Ontario, which has a number of member industries in the north, strongly objects to Hydro's rate increases. Each one percentage point increase in the rate adds nearly \$5 million to the members' electricity bills. All member companies will face an additional \$50 million in power costs as a result of the 1985 rate increases. Our source for that information is noted in these notes; it is an AMPCO press release of September 17, 1984.

There are a number of Ontario Hydro projects which could be undertaken in the north. These not only would provide jobs but also would give the north cheaper electricity than the expensive

power that will come from the new nuclear units in southern Ontario. Electricity from the Bruce B station, for example, costs five cents per kilowatt-hour. Power from the Darlington nuclear station will cost eight cents per kilowatt-hour.

Ontario Hydro has failed to promote small-scale hydroelectric developments. In fact, it has blocked new developments by refusing to pay a fair price for electricity that businesses could generate and sell to Hydro. Ontario Hydro set the rate, called a "buy-back rate," at 1.88 cents per kilowatt-hour instead of the five or eight cents it is now costing Hydro for electricity from the new nuclear plants.

Ontario Hydro's plans to introduce a seasonally adjusted billing system, which would see higher rates paid for power used in peak demand times such as winter, would impose a penalty on those who live in the north, as has been pointed out by the Association of Municipal Electrical Utilities.

12:20 p.m.

A few moments ago the minister asked what our party would do. That is the game the government loves to play, the government that has been sitting there for 41 years and in many instance doing precious little. The game they like to play is to throw out to the opposition questions such as: "What would you do? We want to get it on the record. We would like to take something and paste it on the bulletin boards of northern Ontario to put you guys in line." That reflects a "we will get you" sort of mentality.

We do have a few constructive things to suggest to the minister. We believe that in recognition of the increased cost of living in northern Ontario there should be a northern Ontario tax credit. The minister should do something about that to assist the people of the north. My colleague the member for Rainy River, to whom I made reference a few moments ago, made such a proposal in his reply to the most recent budget put forward by the government.

We would ensure that Ontario Hydro rate increases for 1985 would be reduced by approximately half from the 8.6 per cent to somewhere in the neighbourhood of four per cent. That is a rate close to the current rate of inflation. Ontario Hydro's proposal to introduce seasonally adjusted rates in northern Ontario, which would impose penalties on northern Ontario because of geographic and climatic conditions, must be opposed. We say to the minister that is a positive suggestion to work on. If he wants policy, make that the policy.

The minister has made some observations about employment opportunities and the wonderful things he is doing. I submit that in cities across northern Ontario thousands of idle workers stand as living testimony to the government's failure to stimulate development in the north. The government has never lived up to its commitment, made in the infamous 1977 Brampton charter, "to balanced growth and development in the north so as to make prosperity, social and cultural advancement equally available to the citizens of northern Ontario." We do not think that has happened.

The vulnerability of a natural-resource community made up of largely single-industry communities is demonstrated by looking at unemployment statistics for northern Ontario over the course of the recent recession.

In August 1981, the unemployment rate in the northeast was 5.9 per cent, only marginally above the provincial average of 5.4 per cent and sixth worst in terms of the 10 economic regions in Ontario. By November 1982, northeastern Ontario had by far the highest unemployment rate in the province. At 19 per cent it was almost five points above the next hardest-hit area and far in excess of the provincial average of 11.4 per cent.

Since 1980, the unemployment situation in northern Ontario has deteriorated markedly. In August 1983, there were 7,000 people unemployed in northwestern Ontario, a rate of 6.6 per cent. By August 1984, this had increased to 8,000 or 7.9 per cent. For northeastern Ontario, the 29,000 unemployed in August 1983, equivalent to 12 per cent of the labour force, rose to 40,000 and 15.8 per cent by August 1984.

A further indication of the severity of the recession in the north is the percentage of the population in the labour force. In 1983, northeastern Ontario had a participation rate of only 59.5 per cent, by far the lowest in Ontario and actually lower than the region's 1980 rate. This indicates young people and women are not moving into the labour force at nearly the same rate as in urban areas in southern Ontario, where the participation rate in Toronto for 1983 was 70.6 per cent.

The lack of jobs in the north has kept many prospective labour force entrants from even trying to look for employment. This conclusion is further supported by a special Statistics Canada computer analysis of youth unemployment by economic regions in Ontario commissioned by the Ontario Liberal Party.

During 1983, northeastern Ontario had the highest youth unemployment rate in the province

with more than one youth in four or 25.3 per cent unable to find work. The age group from 15 years to 24 years fared slightly better in northwestern Ontario, where 20.1 per cent could find no work.

Because of the failure of the provincial government to diversify the economy of the north, the northern economy is particularly dependent on the mining and forestry sectors. However, in these areas also the outlook is not encouraging. Employment in the mining sector has decreased from 50,000 in 1980 to 39,000 in August 1984. For forestry, the number of jobs has remained stable over the last year at approximately 15,000.

A recently released report from the Ontario Manpower Commission indicates that a medium-growth scenario for the province will provide only 100 more jobs in forestry and 6,300 in mining in the five-year period from 1984 to 1988. A low-growth scenario would actually see 1,100 jobs lost in forestry and only 1,900 produced in mining.

This analysis provides a clear indication that within the foreseeable future in the two key industries of northern Ontario, one will either be stagnant or lose jobs and the other will generate employment of 10,000 to 15,000, which is 20 to 30 per cent less than the levels of 1980-81.

I want to swing over to forest resources and then to mining. The forest and its products have a very significant economic impact in our province, employing more than 80,000 people. Its impact in the north is more pronounced, accounting for 55 per cent of manufacturing jobs, 58 per cent of manufacturing wages, 57 per cent of total production and 58 per cent of value added.

More than 20 communities across northern Ontario are wholly or largely dependent on the forest industry. After 41 years of Conservative government mismanagement of that industry, which has permitted more trees to be cut than have been replaced, many northern communities are facing imminent timber shortages. To safeguard northern Ontario jobs, the mining of trees by the forest companies licensed by the provincial government must be stopped.

The problems in forest regeneration have been recognized and have remained the same since the early 1900s. What is lacking is the political will of the government to solve them. The total backlog of unregenerated cutover forest land since 1971 is some 1.5 million acres, and the area is growing. Of the 551,281 acres of total cutover in 1982-83, regeneration was undertaken on only 41.5 per cent of the land, or 229,134 acres; natural regeneration occurred on 100,225 acres,

and 221,922 acres were left untreated—in other words, essentially written off.

This record makes a mockery of the government's commitment, made in its infamous Brampton charter of 1977, to replace at least two trees for every one harvested and to "regenerate every acre harvested." Clearly, this promise remains unfulfilled. Because of the government's mismanagement of this resource, mills in Hearst, Chapleau, Thunder Bay, Nipigon and Atikokan face severe shortages of wood supplies in the foreseeable future.

In 1977, the former Minister of Natural Resources made this startling observation: "I thought that we knew how to replant trees. We don't." This analysis has recently been reinforced by a Ministry of Natural Resources report, which has found that half the trees are planted improperly. Poor planting decreases survival rates and causes stunted, deformed and weakened trees. At the same time, tree planting is being subsidized with millions of taxpayers' dollars through forest management agreements.

It is truly ironic that this government has chosen the white pine as the province's official tree. It provides a grim reminder of the government's failed reforestation record. This tree, which as recently as 20 years ago formed nearly half of Ontario's sawmill output, is now so depleted as to make it an endangered species with but a single Ontario sawmill dedicated to its harvest.

12:30 p.m.

In so far as mining is concerned, a major component of northern development is the exploration for and discovery of new mineral resources. The value of Ontario mineral production, however, decreased in 1983 to \$3.5 billion, down from \$4.6 billion in 1980. Production of major metals has had a steady and significant decline in Ontario in the past decade. Since 1971, iron, nickel, copper, zinc and gold production have all fallen sharply in Ontario.

Employment in the mining industry in Ontario has declined from 50,000 in 1980 to 34,000 in 1983. While mining employs one per cent of the province's labour force, it accounts for 15 per cent of northern Ontario's labour force.

Junior mining, which is the backbone of new mine discoveries, has gone into relative decline in Ontario, a major reason being a result of the restrictive policies of Ontario securities regulations. The most recent dramatic mining success in Ontario, at Hemlo, was discovered by three junior mining companies. This discovery only came about as a result of financing from the

Vancouver Stock Exchange after it was rejected by a number of major companies in Toronto. There is no conceivable reason why junior mining companies must go out of the province to get financing for mine development.

We in our party have encouraged the establishment of a separate ministry of mines to promote and encourage the mining industry. Furthermore, we believe financing for junior mines in Ontario must be encouraged through the creation of a junior mining exchange on the Toronto Stock Exchange. Hemlo has proved that there is still a need for the prospector and the junior mining company.

A major problem that has arisen as a result of the Hemlo discovery is that the mining companies are outside the township boundaries and do not have to pay municipal taxes. We raised a question about this yesterday in the chamber. We will continue to pursue that matter because we still perceive it to be a problem for the communities we mentioned yesterday. This is putting tremendous pressures on these townships in view of the fact that company workers live in nearby towns, and those communities are expected to provide the services for the new residents.

The minister is no doubt aware of the resolution I made reference to yesterday which has been passed by the councils of Schreiber, Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay and Marathon. The permanent work force in that area is expected to reach 1,000 when the mines are in full operation next year. This will place increasing demands on the ratepayers of the municipalities. The existing assessment formula and the provincial transfer payment programs are inadequate to assist municipalities in coping with this development.

We believe the government must ensure equitable and stable financing to these communities. When the minister replies to my comments, I would like him to be more specific than he was yesterday in telling us exactly what sort of funding is being provided and elaborating on his reference to the need for those communities to present their case to the Ontario Municipal Board. There is a little question in our minds as to the appropriateness of that reply from the minister. I hope he will address himself to it in more detail when he has the chance.

I made reference in my introductory comments to the Royal Commission on the Northern Environment. I would be remiss if I did not again inquire of the minister as to the status of this longest-running and costliest royal commission in Ontario's history. Created in 1977, this

commission has no doubt become a political embarrassment to the minister.

I realize the responsibility for this royal commission has been shifted to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), or at least to another ministry, but the Ministry of Northern Affairs as the lead ministry—the minister likes to remind us of the co-ordinating role he plays—surely has an obligation to bring us up to date as to where this commission is at.

With an original intended wrapup date of December 1982, the royal commission has missed every deadline it has set itself. At this time, we can only say that the end is still nowhere in sight. With a present cost of more than \$10 million, we think it is fair to demand that this commission be required to report immediately. For all intents and purposes, its work has become irrelevant and most Ontarians would have forgotten that it exists were it not for the tremendous expense.

After all this time and expense, the commission, as far as we can tell, has accomplished nothing. Will the minister inform us of the latest reporting date and the latest government financial commitment to this commission?

The minister made passing reference to agriculture in the north. I would like to make a few observations on agriculture and wild rice licensing.

The neglect and lack of support for the agricultural industry in the north is very obvious. While 90 per cent of Ontario's land mass is north of Parry Sound, only five per cent of the province's improved farm land is in this area and this figure has remained relatively unchanged for the last decade. The five per cent figure also holds true for northern Ontario's share of provincial agricultural production.

There is great agricultural potential in the north. What is required is a government policy fostering an environment whereby the north could move towards agricultural self-sufficiency in the foods it produces.

The north is full of examples of farms that have gone bankrupt and are reverting back to wilderness. Between 1976 and 1981, agricultural land in northern Ontario decreased by 7.3 per cent, a loss of 433 farms.

Even though the government has announced marketing studies since 1977 to develop the agricultural potential of the north, we see very little being accomplished. Northern farmers are still awaiting the government's promise, as contained in the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development program of 1981, for the

upgrading of one million acres of northern and northeastern Ontario land into high-quality farm land.

Just in passing, while the minister was away from his chair, I made reference to wild rice licensing. I wonder whether the minister will indicate in his response the status of the wild rice harvesting moratorium, which expired in May 1983. Also, can he tell us the status of negotiations with native people and whether and how the government is prepared to proceed on this moratorium?

I would like to deal with only two other topics. One of them is the Allan report—the Minister of Education is here; I am not doing this in deference to her presence, but in deference to the educational needs of the north—and the other is the government's health policy in the north.

In May 1982, Rodger Allan was appointed by the Minister of Education as a one-man commission to inquire into the problem of small northern secondary schools. Mr. Allan reported in February 1983. The Allan report was well received by all members of the northern education community.

Mr. Allan addressed certain local disputes that had arisen within and between northern boards. However, 20 of the 26 recommendations were directed to the Ministry of Education. Importantly, Mr. Allan recommended the introduction of an isolated school grants factor, doubling the small school grant for schools 40 miles distant or more from another school teaching in the same language of instruction.

Further recommendations included: (1) provision of incentive grants for program councils promoting co-operative activity between school boards, (2) provision of high-priority capital funds to schools without facilities to provide minimum compulsory credits, (3) development of computer-assisted instruction courses and planned delivery of these computer courses to the schools, (4) increased funding to continuing education programs and (5) increased support for other compensatory funding and staffing proposals.

12:40 p.m.

The Ministry of Education responded to the Allan report a year later, in February 1984. Mr. Allan made 14 recommendations that would require the ministry to spend more money in small northern schools. All 14 spending recommendations were, as far as I know, rejected by the ministry.

One year later the Ministry of Northern Affairs and the Ministry of Education announced a

capital grants plan for small northern high schools where \$1 million a year would be spent for three years. That appears to us a grossly inadequate response to the northern education needs Mr. Allan so clearly identified. I would like the minister to address himself to that observation.

In so far as northern health policy is concerned, I would like to talk about various subheadings that come under this last topic: air ambulances, travel costs from the north, northern internship programs, health care for Indian populations, bed shortages and so on.

The Algoma, Manitoulin-Sudbury and Cochrane district health councils have expressed concern that air ambulances are available only for transfer of emergency patients 10 hours a day. This service is expected to cost \$11 million for the year 1984-85. Currently in the north, discussions about pressing the provincial government to extend the air ambulance service from the present 10 hours to 24 hours are proceeding. Although aircraft are available 24 hours a day, hospitals requiring this service beyond regular hours must provide their own crews. In March, the Algoma, Manitoulin-Sudbury and Cochrane district health councils called for the Ministry of Health to extend the services to this 24-hour coverage.

The ministry pays attendants to be on the aircraft during regular hours. After that time, staff from hospitals often must accompany the patient to the receiving hospital. In the case of Little Current, for example, if one nurse accompanies a patient to the receiving hospital, it may leave the hospital with one or two nurses.

A means of addressing this problem is to have trained paramedic personnel on the aircraft at all times. A training centre could be set up in Sudbury to acquaint trainees with the terrain and hospital personnel they would be working with. Both these proposals have been presented to the ministry and, while support has been expressed, funding has not been forthcoming.

Problems also occur with land ambulance emergencies, since ambulance attendants in the north are not involved in current pilot projects that are training paramedic emergency personnel. To date, these pilot projects have trainees at various stages of training in the paramedic program: 28 students from Metro ambulance service, 14 from Hamilton, and six each from Thunder Bay and Sudbury air ambulance services.

Dr. David Coulson reported to the Liberal task force two years ago that the northern Ontario air

ambulance service provides a litany of grief because of the misuse of this expensive service. He still supports these comments in October 1984. He feels better screening methods are needed to ensure air ambulances provide service to patients in emergency situations and only in those situations where it is more time-saving to travel by air. Routine patient transfers delay services for real emergencies, according to the doctor.

Currently only hospital-to-hospital emergency transfers are funded as insured services under the Ontario health insurance plan. Several area councils in the north, such as the townships of Ignace and Atikokan and townships in Rainy River, have all passed resolutions supporting the city of Thunder Bay resolution of May 1984 requesting changes in the Ministry of Health Act to provide for funding for transportation from the north.

Cancer patients do not meet the definition of "emergency treatment." Therefore, the cancer societies in the north spend large portions of their budgets on travel costs. For example, the Sault Ste. Marie Cancer Society spent 42 per cent or \$55,000 of its budget on transportation of patients to the south during 1983-84. The Thunder Bay society spent 37 per cent or \$85,640 of its budget on transportation costs for cancer victims to the south in the same period. The Sudbury society spent approximately 50 per cent or \$200,000 of its budget during 1983-84.

A case example illustrates the problem. An 11-year-old Thunder Bay child was receiving treatments in Toronto every three weeks for two years for throat cancer. Each trip for mother and child was \$463.30. A total of \$25,000 was spent on transportation.

Cancer societies were originally intended to do research and provide support to families falling victim to cancer. Transportation coverage cuts into their ability to act on this mandate.

Concerning internships, I was pleased to hear the minister tell us about the success he felt the recruitment program was realizing in attracting doctors and dentists. However, I would like to make some observations.

The Ontario ratio of doctors to population is one for every 550 people; in the north it is one for every 1,100 people. Last year 418 applications for internship positions in Canada were submitted by foreign-educated doctors; only 23 were accepted.

There are 600 internship positions in Ontario to match roughly 600 graduates from Ontario schools. My leader, the member for London

Centre (Mr. Peterson), proposed in the Legislature in April 1984 that internship spots be guaranteed for qualified foreign-education graduates who agree to practise in the north. The Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) replied that many of these doctors signed agreements when they came to Canada that they would not practise medicine in this country.

I would like the Minister of Northern Affairs to address himself—this is not spelled out in the notes; I am asking him to make note of it, however—to determining from the Minister of Health whether he or his federal counterpart can see that these people are used in communities where the need is great. There was dialogue, according to our understanding, between the provinces and the federal government concerning what to do with these highly qualified people who come into our country—if not Ontario, then another province—who have the determination to learn our language and to do whatever the medical profession requires of them to bring their standards up to ours. Of course, it would appear that northern Ontario qualifies as an area of need; so if the minister could find out the conclusion, if there was any, to the debate between the provinces and the feds, we would appreciate it.

In so far as the native people are concerned, the health needs of the Indians of remote northern Ontario are often ignored in the minds of many people. Morbidity rates can reach as high as five times those of southern areas; deaths from respiratory diseases are often 150 per cent higher than the Canadian average.

It is difficult to receive funding to meet the needs of the Indians on reserves. For example, a reserve in Spanish, in the district of Algoma, does not receive home care because of the lack of funding to the local Victorian Order of Nurses providing service. The population on this reserve, as we understand it, is 500.

Preventive and educational health programs are desperately needed on reserves. Nutritional problems also abound. Rickets, malnutrition and the resulting learning disabilities in children all need some attention.

We are informed that much of the information provided is written in English, and of course there is a need to see this information put into the language of the people, who do not necessarily understand English.

12:50 p.m.

In the very few minutes that are left, I would like to leave the reading of my notes on general bed shortages to the minister; I will not repeat all

that is said in my notes on bed shortages, hospital capital funding needs and waiting for placement.

Let me simply conclude by saying that in the remaining seven hours or so that we have, I would like to have the minister elaborate on his statement on roads. As I indicated in the beginning, the minister is inclined to accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative. We, on the other hand, must remind him of some of the negative things.

We note that back in September there was comment in the press, particularly related to roads and the Northern Lights Lake Road, which was in very poor condition. I am sure the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren) is going to dwell on that, but the press clipping I have in front of me reads, "Road Condition Battle Brewing." If we were to look at that and then listen to what the minister said, we would have to think we were living in two different worlds. What we read in this article is a story reflecting very bad road conditions, but to listen to the minister we would have to think everything was quite rosy on the roads up north. I would like to see this issue pursued a little.

I would also like to hear some dialogue between the member for Lake Nipigon, who is an old rail man, and the minister on northern rail service, because that has been an issue of considerable concern to the north. I do not profess to have expertise on the subject, but I can read the various newspaper articles. The *Globe and Mail* had a large feature in August headed "Lifeline: Northern Rail Service Resumed After Protests."

Again, if we simply read the headlines, we might say everything was looking pretty good, but when we get into the fourth or fifth paragraph we see this is a seasonal situation. The train will stop for the winter. It is fine to see the service resumed, but I am sure with its discontinuation over the winter months there are transportation problems that still have to be addressed. I look forward to comments from the member for Lake Nipigon.

I would also like the minister, because he did make reference to Chi-Cheemaun, to indicate the problems to us. If one heads up there and gets in the lineup at the right time and the weather is fine, the water is not rough and so on, one has a good experience. But we often hear the negative side of Chi-Cheemaun. I would like the minister to indicate what percentage of downtime, if any, was realized this year, what problems, if any, he ran into this year, what kind of complaints came to the minister this year, if any. Perhaps there

were none. Perhaps this was a banner year. Certainly, I would like him to elaborate on his comments on that.

I would like to conclude. As I indicated a moment or so ago, I look forward to the remaining seven hours so that we can get into some detail and pursue the ministry with a request for specifics.

Mr. Stokes: Mr. Chairman, given the time on the clock and given the signs I am getting, both from the members on the other side and the table, there seems to be a consensus that I should adjourn the debate.

On motion by Mr. Stokes, the debate was adjourned.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Bernier, the committee of supply reported progress.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, to amend the business statement I made yesterday, it is my understanding we had announced that next Thursday evening we would deal with the 11th report of the select committee on the Ombudsman. Since the House did not complete consideration and debate on the seventh and eighth reports of the standing committee on procedural affairs on agencies, boards and commissions, we will conclude that debate before we begin the debate on the report on the Ombudsman next Thursday evening.

The business I indicated I would announce today for Tuesday evening, I will announce on Monday.

The House adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament
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Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner
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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 11, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

COMMENTS IN RIDING REPORT

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight with your indulgence to make a personal statement. As a private member and as a Roman Catholic, I hold very strong personal views about the abortion issue and school funding which were reflected in a constituency letter, the Queen's Park Report, which I recently mailed out to my constituents.

Following reflection about the discussion in the Legislature earlier this afternoon and on the advice and, in fact, firm direction of my leader, I wish to sincerely apologize to members of this Legislature and to the public or such members of the public who believe I have misrepresented the positions of others, most notably the position of the leader of the New Democratic Party and the position of that party.

I apologize to the members present and to those perhaps not present for my use of excessive language in Italian and for any inaccurate portrayals of the positions of others. I also wish to apologize to you, Mr. Speaker, in the position which you so ably represent in this assembly.

In order to ensure that there be no misunderstanding, I have suggested to my leader, and will in fact carry out at my own expense, a clarification by way of an additional householder notice to all of those who received the original notice. The clarification will be in form and substance acceptable to all parties. Thank you for your indulgence.

The Deputy Speaker: I thank the member for his comments.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, perhaps I may be permitted to say to the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri) on behalf of our caucus that we accept the prompt response and retraction and apology by the member for Yorkview for the statements which were made. They were matters touching deeply this party and the views it has evolved and stated from time to time in its conventions and in this assembly. These matters were deeply felt and we were deeply hurt by the allegations made by the member for Yorkview.

I am particularly appreciative, as my colleagues in this caucus will be appreciative, of the

clear, straightforward statement that the member will circulate to all of the people who received his report, a clarification and a retraction about the remarks made about this party in order that the damage that has been done or could be done by those statements would be rectified to the extent a retraction can do so.

I noted particularly that the member stated it would be in terms acceptable to all parties and we look forward to that retraction. We appreciate the immediate response by the member to the concerns that were expressed and so deeply felt by the leader of this party earlier today.

Mr. Robinson: Mr. Speaker, on the same point, let me say on behalf of my colleagues on the government side of the House that we are equally impressed by the steps the member for Yorkview has taken tonight to correct a very dangerous, damaging situation with regard to the democratic process here in Ontario.

I would be less than honest if I did not draw to the attention of this House that the government party of this province is not composed of the specific religious groups alluded to earlier in the translation from across the way. On behalf of those members of other faiths, particularly those faithful to the Roman Catholic Church on this side of the House, we hope such an incident will never be repeated in these halls.

REPORT, STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the third report of the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, it appears no one is very anxious to speak to this report. If we have the concurrence of all members of the House, we could continue along at great speed with the report on procedural affairs, a debate in which I would be more than willing to participate.

The Deputy Speaker: I thank the member for Durham East for his comments. We are waiting to see if anybody wishes to address order 25, the motion to adopt the third report of the standing

committee on regulations and other statutory instruments.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I want to say something briefly about the regulations report. There are two of them before us. I think it was thought they might be adopted without much delay. I have my own feelings about the necessity for the continuation of that committee. Having talked to some of my colleagues who have laboured long on the committee, the idea is often expressed that perhaps that work is something less than the most valuable work we are called upon to do.

I know in the traditions of the democratic process a watchdog committee on regulations has usually been part of the process, although I recall we went many years here without a specific committee on regulations. I think it was mostly because the work is so deadly boring and useless that we feel we might think in the future of forgoing this particular safeguard.

It seems to me that any time members of the public in Ontario feel they are somehow injured by regulations promulgated by order in council, they can bring their complaints to any member of the Legislature or any officer of the law in government and we could perhaps review on petition, if that were to be the case.

I did not want to allow this occasion to go by when many of our colleagues have spent so long on these reports. There is absolutely no interest in the report whatsoever in the House that I can see, mostly because the most careful examination of the committee did not turn up anything of significance.

8:10 p.m.

I should also point out that the committee has been well served by its counsel, but the counsel's advice and assistance come at no mean dollar cost. The counsel is retained by the committee and is obviously worth every dollar charged. I am not arguing about that. If we are looking for some minor economy around here, however, we might consider dispensing with the committee on regulations and the inherent costs associated with it. I think there would be a sigh of relief from the members who have been representatives of the various parties on that committee.

Mr. Speaker, I put that suggestion forward for consideration by yourself and our colleagues in the House.

The Deputy Speaker: If there is no further comment on order 25, shall the report be received and adopted?

Motion agreed to.

REPORT, STANDING COMMITTEE ON REGULATIONS AND OTHER STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

Consideration of the first report (1984) of the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: You will realize that we do not have the order of business on Orders and Notices. We may have missed which order was being called. Can we have it repeated?

The Deputy Speaker: Perhaps the table will assist us in that, but I recall the House leader referring to order 25 which, as you recall, we just dealt with. Now my understanding is, as we heard earlier, the House leader outline that order 29 is the next order of business.

Mr. Cureatz: Thank you again, Mr. Speaker. I am so pleased that the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) is so concerned about the orders and procedures. He has all the reports in his hand.

While speaking of all the reports in your hands, Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity of reviewing them in great depth and you will realize that both report seven and eight fall hand in hand in terms of the committee work. I am going to refer to both of them in my humble remarks.

I might add with interest, as quite often happens around this learned place, that those who have not spent much time with respect to preparing the report wind up having lots to say about it and such is the case with myself. Unfortunately, I did not have the opportunity to sit on the committee at the time when the various boards and agencies were being reviewed, but it will not hinder me whatsoever.

Mr. Gillies: You are on the wrong one.

Mr. Cureatz: No, I am not.

Mr. McClellan: No prompting.

Mr. Cureatz: However, it having been brought to my attention with great interest that I could very well be on the wrong report, I might save my remarks until we finally get to it.

The Deputy Speaker: To the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz) and his coach, the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies)—

Mr. Cureatz: I have no further comments.

The Deputy Speaker: —this report is simply for consideration so there is no comment.

Would any other member like to speak to order 29, the regulations report?

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, in order to try to speed things along, and since I see the chairman is not here and since I know the government House leader did have a reason for calling this urgent piece of public business here this evening, perhaps the vice-chairman... perhaps the vice-chairman...perhaps the vice-chairman—

Mr. Foulds: If we could have the attention of the vice-chairman.

The Deputy Speaker: So we can dispense with this echo in the chamber, is the vice-chairman of the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments available?

Mr. Gillies: I am right here.

The Deputy Speaker: Fine. Does the vice-chairman have any comments?

Mr. Gillies: Mr. Speaker, I have no comment other than to reflect on a couple of things that have come to the attention of the regulations committee in the last year or so.

We had several issues, quite apart from the regulations themselves, that were considered along with the private bills and the other business that has come before the committee. It is a very strong feeling of the standing committee on regulations that we maintain our outside counsel for frequent consultation and for the use of the committee members.

I understand this has been contentious from time to time, particularly at the Board of Internal Economy, but if there is one memorable debate that has taken place in the committee in the last number of months on which there has been a degree of unanimity among the members of the committee, it would be on the issue that we retain our very able outside counsel. In so doing, the committee will have the ability to maintain a certain degree of independence in considering the work we do.

I think the work of this committee is important inasmuch as it is often reviewing business internal to the government. It is at this point that the members of the Legislature have the opportunity to review such matters.

With those few brief comments, I would ask that members give consideration to the adoption of the report.

The Deputy Speaker: Do any honourable members wish to add comments to this order? If not, that concludes discussion of it.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, since the House is back again fully occupied with urgent and important public business, we should have a quorum. Does Mr. Speaker see one?

The Deputy Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

8:21 p.m.

REPORTS, STANDING COMMITTEE ON PROCEDURAL AFFAIRS

(continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs on agencies, boards and commissions (No. 7).

Resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for adoption of the recommendations contained in the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs on agencies, boards and commissions (No. 8).

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Chairman, now that I have finally got the right order, I apologize to the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), who rightly pointed out to me that he was concerned about what order was taking place on the floor of the House. I was speaking to the 30th order; the 29th was before it. For further clarification, I checked with the Clerk's table. Interestingly enough, with regard to the 30th order, we will be discussing both the seventh and eighth report, for the information of the member for Bellwoods. From time to time, when I refer to both, he will have an appreciation of why that is the case.

If all the members take a look at the report, they will realize that it is very intensive. As I explained earlier, I did not have the opportunity—

Mr. McClellan: Do you mean No. 7?

Mr. Cureatz: I am speaking to both reports.

I did not have the opportunity of sitting on the committee because I believe I was the Deputy Speaker at that time. Speaking of Deputy Speakers, might I add, now that I have the opportunity, that in my estimation you have performed your job very admirably. From time to time in that position it becomes very trying and anxious, as I well know, but with respect to my evaluation your adjudication has been superb. We look forward to the continuing fall session, along with yourself and the Speaker, in terms of the fairness and equity that are required in that position.

In any event, I am not going to deal in depth with the various aspects of the two reports. What I am going to do is take a look at the one area of concern to me that I brought to the attention of the procedural affairs committee when I was Deputy Speaker, and that is my concern, which is well documented, with regard to the Law Society of Upper Canada.

In that regard, I would like all the members to refresh their memories by taking a look at report 7, page 28. I know the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk (Mr. Nixon) will want to know again what the law society is all about.

Mr. Nixon: The Law Society of Upper Canada. Get that right.

Mr. Cureatz: The report says the Law Society Act—no, the Law Society of Upper Canada. The member is absolutely right.

To read from the report: “The Law Society Act creates the Law Society of Upper Canada as a self-governing body for the legal profession. The society was originally established in 1797 in the reign of George III and incorporated in 1822 in the reign of George IV. Over the years, various changes in the act have been legislated, with the latest major revisions occurring in 1970. In that year, the Law Society Act was amended to reflect the modern conditions under which the legal profession worked. The amendments to the act sought to retain the traditions of the society while making the society more responsive to the public and the members of the society.”

Continuing on later on that page: “The society is constituted as a corporation without share capital and consists of a treasurer, under-treasurer, various officers, the benchers and the general membership. The treasurer is the president and head of the society and is assisted by the undertreasurer as the chief operating officer. The secretary is the chief administrative officer. The benchers govern the affairs of the society. There are several types of benchers: those who are elected, those who are appointed honorary benchers and ex-officio benchers.

“Forty benchers are elected every four years, with 20 of these representing the Metropolitan Toronto area and 20 coming from outside Metropolitan Toronto. Two of the four lay benchers are from Metro Toronto and two are from outside the area. The lay benchers are appointed by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. When benchers meet, it is called a convocation.”

We continue on with reference to the Law Society of Upper Canada. At page 31 the committee makes reference to the act, the act being, of course, the Law Society Act. It provides that only a member of the society may act as a barrister and solicitor or hold himself out as—I suppose herself as well; we will eventually have to amend that portion of the act, but the committee did not make that recommendation—or represent himself to be a barrister or solicitor

or practise as a barrister or solicitor. If found guilty, the person may be subject to a fine, etc.

What are the problems in the report? I bring to the members’ attention the general aspect of the Law Society of Upper Canada because from here on in we are going to be making continual reference to what I see as some of the major problems that were certainly brought forward by the committee.

We take a look at the report on page 37. The committee, very rightly, so brings to the attention of all of us some recommendations.

“The Law Society of Upper Canada, the governing body of the law profession in Ontario, has been given a mandate by the Legislative Assembly of Ontario to govern in the public interest, principally to ensure that the services provided by lawyers are of the highest standards. The committee believes that the society has sought to achieve this objective. The members of the committee, however, wish to point out that their perception of the public’s attitude toward the legal profession and the legal system is at variance with the society’s efforts to ensure the highest standards of service.” Reading that sentence, it sounds like a lawyer has prepared it.

“Despite the society’s efforts, the public image of the legal profession and the legal system appears to be somewhat tarnished. As the former treasurer of the law society has commented: ‘Discipline matters are on the rise. Day after day the media reports of moneys taken or of counsel they discern to be acting improperly. Cementing an already cynical perception of the practice of law, a few judges repetitiously create headlines critical of counsel’s court demeanor or style of advocacy. Some of this, of course, is perhaps deserving but it is disconcerting nevertheless and certainly it is not helpful to the profession’s image, which most lawyers so sensibly strive to keep at a high level.’

“The general impression left with the public,” the committee continued on, “is that the legal profession is not serving the public interest. It is in this context that the committee presents the following remarks and recommendations, which it believes will help the society fulfil its mandate.

“The first point the committee wishes to raise is a matter of the society’s public image. The committee is of the opinion that the society would greatly benefit from an education campaign in which the public is informed of the society’s functions, its purposes, its objectives and in what way the society can be of help to the public.”

I bring that to the assembly's attention because I am focusing in now on the committee's concerns on the general, what they feel, attitude of the public as a whole, namely, that the reputation of barristers and solicitors in general across Ontario is somewhat at a low. Secondly, it would appear that the law society is not helping in any manner whatsoever in terms of upgrading that image.

I want to bring the members' attention now to what the committee reports in terms of specific problems. There are a number of specific problems that the committee investigated when the law society appeared before the committee.

8:30 p.m.

I am going to centre in on one area that is of continual concern to all of us, and that is the legal aid plan. If we take a look back at page 33 in the seventh report, it will come to the attention of the members that under the Legal Aid Act the law society is given general responsibility for administering the legal aid plan.

"While convocation retains ultimate authority in this regard, the society has established the legal aid committee, along with several subcommittees, to supervise the operation of the plan, and to make policy decisions. The legal aid committee is composed of 32 members and is divided into 16 subcommittees..." All of this is in the report, and I will not bore you with the various subcommittees. However, I do want to bring to your attention the terms of the legal aid plan.

"While the law society is made responsible for the general administration of the plan, it is the director of legal aid who supervises the plan's day-to-day operations. He is assisted by a controller and a legal accounts officer. The former is responsible for all accounting and financial procedures of the plan, for directing the clerical staff and for maintaining and analysing all relevant information relating to the operation of the plan. The latter is the officer responsible for settling lawyers accounts."

One final paragraph in regard to the legal aid plan:

"There are 47 directors corresponding to the 47 legal aid areas established under the plan. Each area director is responsible for maintaining an area legal aid office and for establishing and maintaining the duty counsel and legal aid panels for his area. The panels contain a list of lawyers from which applicants select the lawyer of his or her choice."

From report 7, and still in regard to the specific problem that the committee has centred on,

namely, the legal aid plan, I would like to bring members' attention to report 8, pages 91 and 92.

At the bottom of page 91, we refer again to the legal aid plan. The recommendation by the committee is that "the Attorney General provide additional funds to enable the legal aid fee schedule to be raised to levels that adequately compensate lawyers who practise under the legal aid plan."

The Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) responded to that recommendation stating, "Although the existing legal aid tariff remains one of the most generous in the country, I do hope to be able to provide a significant tariff increase in the reasonably near future, particularly having regard to the cost increases which members of the legal profession have encountered in recent years."

The treasurer of the law society, of course, appeared before the committee and stated, as follows: "We appreciate the standing committee's support of a revision of the legal aid tariff. As I indicated, this is now before the Attorney General, who will be pursuing it with the government and others, and I am sure that you will support the objectives of that revision."

Interesting enough, today about 5:30 p.m., being a member also of the justice committee, I had the opportunity of hearing the opening statements of both the Attorney General and the critics of the Attorney General.

Page 31 of the Attorney General's opening statement again referred to the legal aid plan:

"Members will recall my previous statements about the importance of the legal aid plan. I will not repeat those statements today, but I would like to applaud one important recent development. For years I have been urging members of the legal profession to demonstrate a stronger interest in and commitment to legal aid. I am delighted that the new president of the Canadian Bar Association, Claude Thompson, has decided to make legal aid his number one priority during his term of office."

To refresh all members' memories, and I know they will be making photostat copies and sending them out to all their constituents, we are again talking about report 7 of the standing committee on procedural affairs. I am dealing specifically with aspects of the Law Society of Upper Canada, bringing to all members' attention the concerns the committee had about the perception of the general public of the law profession, which, quite frankly, is bad. For the members' information, I am bringing to their attention what the committee felt was, among other things,

some of the specific problems of the Law Society Act, and one is to take a look at the legal aid plan.

How was I involved as Deputy Speaker in terms of suggesting to the procedural affairs committee the possibility of taking a look at the law society? That goes back a long way, but I will be very brief about this because I know I have the interest of all members of the assembly.

It was brought to my attention that, interesting enough, there was a great deal of lack of concern by, first of all, the lawyers here in the assembly about the position of their fellow colleagues. By their fellow colleagues, I mean other barristers and solicitors who are practising here in Ontario.

It was also obvious to me that the Law Society of Upper Canada, to the best of my knowledge, had no or very little contact with all the members of the assembly. Granted, from time to time, the treasurer no doubt spoke with the Premier (Mr. Davis), the Attorney General or possibly sometimes with the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor). However, for the humble almost eight years I have been a member, at no time have I ever had a visitation, a letter of encouragement or a request for assistance from anyone from the Law Society of Upper Canada, be it the treasurer or other benchers.

Mr. McKessock: It has been nine years now.

Mr. Cureatz: Has it been nine? I do not think so. The member for Grey came here in 1975. I came in 1977.

Mr. Speaker, I know you will find this very interesting. The third point is that in my evaluation there was no group of lawyers across the province who were doing what I would term lobbying on behalf of barristers and solicitors. I am very conscious of what we term lobbying. I know it is a term with great reference to the United States Congress.

From time to time all members of the House have been approached by various interest groups, and I think it is legitimate for those groups to approach us in one way or another. I know from time to time we are all busy, but we do our best to hear them or answer them in writing.

I am very conscious of this because I can think about my own riding of Durham East with which all the members are familiar. If they are not, I will refresh their memories. It encompasses all of the town of Newcastle and a good portion of the city of Oshawa. I mention that because in Oshawa we have a particular industrial institution called General Motors of Canada Ltd. There is a very active—and that is an understatement—union there, the United Automobile Workers. From time to time they have brought their

concerns to me and to other members here. I am very sensitive in terms of their approach to make their views heard.

I do not have to refresh the memories of the members as to other groups that visit us from time to time. I can think of the dental association. That brings to mind that it seems to me the time of year is fast approaching when we will again be visiting the dentists with our other professional colleagues. I can think of that infamous group, the chiropractors. I can think of an occasion where I was visited by the landscape architects. As all of us could, I could go on and on about lobbying groups.

However, what happened to the barristers and solicitors? Where are their spokespersons in bringing the concerns of the barristers and solicitors across Ontario to the members of the Legislative Assembly? It became obvious to me no one was speaking in unison on their behalf. Why was that not happening?

Interestingly enough, I found out that anyone I spoke to in the legal profession indicated to me, “Why should we bother to be concerned about having a lobbying group looking after the interests of lawyers in the assembly because most of the members are lawyers?”

Oddly enough, I took a look at the list. Do the members know what? Much to my amazement—and I have been repeating this for quite a while now—most of us in the assembly are not lawyers. In fact, there are more so-called private business people here. After that group, depending on the scope of the terminology, there are more teachers. Finally, the profession of lawyers comes to the front.

I said to myself, “Self, I guess the first thing we had better do is to take a look and speak with all the lawyers of the assembly to see whether they have any concerns about what is taking place for our fellow colleagues, our fellow barristers and solicitors across Ontario.” At great expense to myself, I decided to call a meeting of all the lawyers of the assembly, and a grand occasion that was.

Mr. McClellan: Where was this meeting? What country was it in?

8:40 p.m.

Mr. Cureatz: It was here, down in the basement. I want to bring the list of people that I invited to all members of the assembly because I think it will be extremely important for Hansard to refresh all the memories of the members in the likelihood that on some future occasion, when someone is reviewing this, they will know who the lawyers were that I invited.

The member for Kitchener (Mr. Breithaupt), a QC in the Liberal Party; none other than myself; the Premier; the member for York East (Mr. Elgie); the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston); the member for Parry Sound (Mr. Eves); the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman); the member for Burlington South (Mr. Kerr); the member for Carleton East (Mr. MacQuarrie); the member for Eglinton (Mr. McMurtry); the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton); the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson); the member for Cochrane South (Mr. Pope); the member for York South (Mr. Rae); the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick); the former member for Ottawa East, Mr. Roy; the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri); the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling); the member for Simcoe Centre; the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor); the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven); the member for London South (Mr. Walker); the member for Brock (Mr. Welch); and the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams).

That is the list of all the barristers and solicitors in the assembly, and I invited them all to a gala event of an hour and a half, a free meal here in the assembly, to talk about the concerns of barristers and solicitors.

I want to bring to members' attention all the people who showed up out of that remarkable group. I was there. The member for Carleton-Grenville very kindly attended. The member for Brock came, I think mainly out of curiosity and to make sure I was not rabble-rousing. The member for Riverdale very kindly appeared. The member for Kitchener and the member for Huron-Bruce were there as well.

I explained to those who did turn up the general concerns I have already related to members, that there appeared to be no lobby group on behalf of barristers and solicitors to bring to the attention of members of the assembly some of the concerns this profession has.

Interestingly enough, the humble little group that was there felt the same way. Very happily enough, as members can so interestingly see, I had a cross-section in attendance at that meeting representing all political parties. The first thing we did amongst those humble few of us was to decide to strike a committee. The committee was made up of a triumvirate, bringing back the days of ancient Rome, of myself, the member for Riverdale and the member for Kitchener.

This committee's purpose was first of all to bring to the attention of all members of the assembly the fact that barristers and solicitors in

Ontario have concerns that are not getting through here. More important, it was to approach those various groups, namely—and finally we are coming back to the point—the Law Society of Upper Canada, and to instruct it in the method of getting some of its concerns across to the members of the assembly.

In that regard I wrote the then treasurer, Mr. Bowlby, indicating that this committee had been struck, that it was an all-party committee and that we were thinking only about the concerns of barristers and solicitors. Interestingly enough, Mr. Bowlby looked askance at us, and we had no reaction from him about our concerns with respect to barristers and solicitors.

However, as good fate would have it, shortly thereafter Laura Legge became the new treasurer of the Law Society of Upper Canada, and she expressed some interest and some concerns about how the law society could get across its points better to the members of the assembly than it had in the past.

Very kindly we met with her. The triumvirate committee of the lawyers of the assembly of Ontario—the two Jims, as I referred to them, and myself—met with the treasurer and the under-treasurer, Rendall Dick, who I think from time to time may have passed on various pieces of paper from a previous reincarnation.

We brought to the treasurer's attention the fact that the benchers in the Law Society of Upper Canada were missing the boat; they were not getting their point across. The treasurer said: "First of all, we thought the assembly was full of lawyers. We thought everyone was looking after our interests."

I brought to her attention the fact that there are only about 22 lawyers in the assembly and, funnily enough, those lawyers are not very interested in the concerns of barristers and solicitors. Those lawyers in the assembly are more interested in getting re-elected and in looking after the constituents they represent and in fulfilling the responsibilities that this great, august body requires of them. Unlike the farmers of this assembly, who are very concerned, I have noticed, about other farmers across Ontario, the lawyers of the assembly are not very concerned about what is happening to their colleagues the barristers and solicitors out there in the real world of Ontario.

That was a great enlightenment for the treasurer. Quite frankly, I think she was a little astounded. I give her much credit; she listened with great interest. However, she brought to our attention that she had a great concern that the

Law Society of Upper Canada should not be lobbying on behalf of barristers and solicitors. Their responsibility, and the report indicates this, was the protection of the public by practising lawyers in Ontario.

The treasurer felt it was beyond their scope to take direct action in looking after the interests of lawyers and communicating with us here in the assembly. However, she did recognize the possibility of having contact with us in recognition of concerns that the law society has about the lack of funding for the legal aid plan and the possibility of seeking amendments to the Law Society Act. Instead of continuing just to approach the Attorney General, who goodness knows has great responsibilities with regard to the administration of justice across this province, it would be incumbent upon the law society to approach and explain to all members of the assembly the various amendments they might be seeking from time to time so all of us have a better understanding and appreciation on what, quite frankly, they are up to.

The triumvirate of the lawyers' committee of the assembly came to the conclusion that we made some headway with the Law Society of Upper Canada but that in recognition of the problems barristers and solicitors were encountering across the province, we had better take a look at those parent groups that might be lobbying on behalf of lawyers across Ontario.

The member for Kitchener, the member for Riverdale and myself then approached what we thought was probably the kind of organization that would take a great interest in looking at concerns of lawyers across Ontario, namely, the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division. There is a Canadian Bar Association that represents barristers and solicitors across the country, but that organization is divided into the appropriate regional divisions, and our area obviously is Ontario.

At that time, I tracked down Mr. Ray Ostiguy from Ottawa, the president of the CBA-O.

Mr. Mancini: Why is the member telling us all this?

Mr. Cureatz: It all works in. I see the member for Essex South is in a different spot lately. Has something happened to the honourable member? Does it mean there will be another leadership bid from there shortly? I am glad he did not run federally, I must say. I am much happier that he is here.

The three of us approached the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division, and indicated they were doing a terrible job in bringing to the

attention of the members of the assembly the concerns of lawyers across Ontario. Much to our astonishment, we went through the same procedure. This took a heck of a lot of time. This all started in December 1982, when we first had our general meeting and invited the lawyers of the assembly to a dinner.

Finally, we got together with the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division, indicated our concerns and went through the whole procedure that the assembly is not made up entirely of lawyers, that there is no one lobbying on behalf of lawyers and that the CBA-O would appear to be the natural group to bring to the attention of members of the assembly that the bulk of the lawyers out there in the real world are not having such an easy go as one would think.

8:50 p.m.

At the same time, another interesting development took place. A new group, calling itself the Ontario Lawyers Association, was started by Gary Valcour, interestingly enough from the area I represent, the city of Oshawa. The Ontario Lawyers Association instigated some interest from lawyers across the province, indicating that indeed there was no lawyers' lobby group on behalf of barristers and solicitors and that, for a fee that they thought was reasonable, the Ontario Lawyers Association would hire a staff and try to institute through the direction of speaking with members here in the assembly a kind of lobby organization to get some concerns across to all of us here.

The three of us, representing all the lawyers in the assembly, met with Mr. Gary Valcour. The meeting proved to be successful, but right away we were concerned about what appeared to be a division among lawyers already. When one gets two lawyers together, one will have five different opinions of what is taking place and we were already running into difficulties as to who should be doing what in terms of representing barristers and solicitors to members of the assembly.

At the same time, Mr. Willson McTavish was the head of the Committee of Presidents of the County and District Law Association—

Mr. Mancini: Let us get to the point.

Mr. Cureatz: We are getting there.

This is a third group. I should give credit to Mr. McTavish because he was the original one who brought to my attention what he felt was some of the concerns of the Law Society of Upper Canada. Funnily enough, it seemed to me in my investigation that he never directly went to, spoke to and got the concerns of the law society that they should not be speaking on behalf of

lawyers. Certainly he was speaking across the province, bringing to lawyers' attention that lawyers were missing the boat somewhat.

We got together with Mr. McTavish. The member for Mississauga North (Mr. Jones), the Deputy Speaker, who has since left, would be interested. He probably knows Mr. Willson McTavish. The triumvirate committee of the lawyers of the assembly wound up in a discussion with four groups on what was taking place in regard to the procedural affairs committee's concern about the specific aspect I am speaking to, which is the general problem lawyers seem to be having across Ontario.

Mr. Mancini: What is the problem? Tell us the problem.

Mr. Cureatz: I do not know whether the member missed my opening remarks, but as I indicated earlier, if he takes a look at the seventh report, pages 37 and 38, there is a public image problem for barristers and solicitors. To be specific, I chose one of the more high-profile concerns of the committee and that was, again refreshing the member's memory, the legal aid concern.

Continuing with this very interesting escapade in terms of the committee's report, how we got to this stage and ultimately how we hope to correct it in the fullness of time, as I bring to every member's attention—

Mr. Foulds: Which page is this?

Mr. Cureatz: We are getting there. We are not at a particular number yet. We are just refreshing the members' memories on how we got to the report. My little assistant tells me we are looking at page 7.

Mr. Foulds: Page 7? Thank you.

Mr. Cureatz: How we got to the report was that the committee of lawyers, the member for Kitchener, the member for Riverdale and I, struck off to see who was speaking on behalf of lawyers. The Law Society of Upper Canada was interested, but it could not do it. There was the Ontario Lawyers' Association, which wanted to try to do it. The Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division, was thinking of wanting to do it. Then there was the committee of presidents of the county and district lawyers' association, which was trying to get together some interest in creating a lobby group to speak on behalf of lawyers.

Finally, beginning in December 1982, we made some headway. In February 1983, after the three lawyers who made up the triumvirate committee got together with these various

groups, we established what we thought would be a good method of creating an adequate lobby group. We took a look at what the dentists had done from time to time. As we all know, when the dentists bring to our attention the concerns they have, lo and behold, who is waiting for us but quite often a dentist, if not our own dentist, meeting us with joyful smiles and indicating to us some of his thoughts and concerns. In my estimation, and I convinced the other two members of the committee, that might be an adequate approach.

How would we do that? The method we struck upon was to create a lawyers' network. We devised a letter to go out to the various presidents of the local law associations across the province. The letter read as follows:

"If you recall, I wrote you about my concerns with the present method of electing benchers to our law society. Many of you responded to my letter and have indicated encouraging comments. Once the upcoming election of benchers is over, I will once again pursue the letter."

I will bring that to the members' attention shortly.

"In the meantime, I am co-chairperson of the lawyers' committee of all the lawyers of the Legislative Assembly. The other co-chairmen are Mr. Breithaupt and Mr. Renwick. We have been working on setting up a network of lawyers across the province. One of the functions of the network of lawyers would be to relate to provincial members of parliament concerns of lawyers.

"Ray Ostiguy, president of the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division, Willson McTavish, chairman of the Committee of Presidents of the County and District Law Association, Bert Doran, a bencher and chairman of the public information committee of the law society, and we, co-chairpersons of the lawyers' committee of the assembly, have concluded that a possible network of lawyers should involve the local law associations.

"As a result, I am writing to you as president of your local law association to bring this matter up with the lawyers in your association to select a lawyer or lawyers to cover each provincial member of parliament that your law association covers. I cannot stress enough the importance of this task. A possibility would be to have you, as president, let your name stand and be the first lawyer of your association to be involved in the network. And I further take the liberty to suggest that I envision the possibility of your executive

changing your choice of lawyer from time to time.

"This network of lawyers will be called upon to advance the concerns of our profession to members of the assembly. Material to help support such an advancement would be administered by the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division. I would be presumptuous to say that the law society would have input to this network of lawyers; however, the interest that Bert Doran has indicated makes me believe that our society will react positively, albeit cautiously, to the lawyers' network.

"I implore you to consider this request. There is a great need for lawyers as professionals to begin to have a say in matters that are taking place, or for that matter not taking place, in the Legislative Assembly. Contrary to popular belief, there are only 24 lawyers out of the total of 125 members of the assembly and, quite frankly, we lawyers of the assembly need a more united voice from you. Please forward your association's selection of your lawyer to the lawyers' network."

That was a step, albeit a small step, in the right direction, but happily enough we were getting some articles and concerns expressed by lawyers across Ontario, shaking them up, waking them up, bringing to their attention that they were left in the starting blocks a long time ago in terms of getting their concerns across to all of us here.

That letter about the lawyers' network was sent out in February 1983. Following that, Mr. Colin McKinnon, who was the newly elected chairman of the county and district law associations across Ontario, had met with us after Mr. Willson McTavish retired from his position. All the members of the assembly who get the Ontario Lawyers Weekly, instead of just perusing it or for that matter not looking at it at all, should take a little bit of interest in it and have a bit of concern about it.

Mr. McKinnon brought forward what he felt were some major concerns and what he was about to act on with respect to lack of representation by lawyers across Ontario to all of us here in the assembly. He indicated that in an exclusive interview. "Colin McKinnon, the former president of the County of Carleton Law Association, said that the CBA-O and the Law Society are sometimes fearful of getting involved in gut issues because they feel the public will not like to hear it or there will be a backlash."

In my estimation that is a misreading of what I regard as a pretty educated public in Ontario. I sometimes wonder whether there is a proper

respect for the public of Ontario. I think if the issues are properly explained—for example, incomes as they relate to work being done competently for the client—how can any right-thinking individual be upset?

9 p.m.

Mr. McKinnon went on to say that he and the members of the executive committee of the presidents, the committee of five, will push the CBA-O and the law society on these issues. The mandate of the executive, he says, derives from the numerous resolutions that were passed unanimously by 32 representatives at the last meeting at Osgoode Hall, June 22.

I thought it was about time to do my best to bring to everyone's attention what I felt were some major concerns about the happenings over the last year and a half by bringing forward to the procedural affairs committee some of the concerns it was investigating; namely, the Law Society of Upper Canada. I brought this to the attention of the Ontario Lawyers Weekly through an article that I will not read entirely, but I will touch on some of the concerns.

Mr. McClellan: Are you trying to prevent other people from speaking? This is a filibuster.

Mr. Cureatz: I had some great support from the former member for Ottawa Centre, Mr. Cassidy. I never thought that he and I would agree on an issue, but we did. The issue we agreed on in the committee was as follows. I indicated this in an article that was published in the Ontario Lawyers Weekly about October 1983, headed, "The Election of Benchers."

"There has been some interest expressed in having benchers elected on a riding basis outside of Toronto. As matters stand now, benchers outside of Toronto must campaign for election throughout the entire rest of the province. The alternative would be to have these benchers campaign in 20 distinct districts determined on the basis of both geography and the number of resident lawyers. A lawyer seeking election as a bencher would therefore represent and be easily identified as a bencher for a particular constituency. Lawyers' concerns would be directed in the first instance to that bencher.

"Failing a satisfactory resolution of the matter, other benchers would be approached. To further strengthen the connection between lawyers and benchers, the latter would be expected to establish and maintain contact with their constituents through an annual communiqué. Such a change, however, still leaves the 20 benchers from Toronto in a dominant position—

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, do you see a quorum in the House?

The Acting Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

9:06 p.m.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): A quorum is present.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, absolutely, this is procedural affairs. I just had one of the greatest compliments ever paid. One of my fellow back-benchers asked me what I was talking about. I think it is only incumbent upon me to bring what I was talking about to everyone's attention again. We were discussing the 30th order, resuming the adjourned debate on the motion for the adoption of recommendations contained in the report of the standing committee on procedural affairs on agencies, boards and commissions, number 8, but also number 7, as confirmed by the clerk.

In regard to that report, we are bringing to everyone's attention my concerns that the procedural affairs committee brought forth on the Law Society of Upper Canada, more generally in reference to report number 7 on pages 37 and 38, the poor public image of lawyers and, more specifically, on pages 33 and 34, the lack of funding for legal aid.

I was refreshing everyone's memory about how I had concerns about these various aspects and how I was very pleased, although I was not a member of the procedural affairs committee at that time and although I was in that august position of Deputy Speaker, that nevertheless, through various communiqués, I had brought to the attention of the procedural affairs committee some of the concerns I had about lack of representation of lawyers across Ontario to the members of the assembly.

I can see the member for Carleton-Grenville. He was at the great dinner meeting, was he not? Does he remember the basement affair that I paid for and he came. He was one of the six lawyers of 22 who came to that meeting.

The Acting Speaker: Is the member speaking to the resolution?

Mr. Cureatz: I am bringing to everyone's attention how I got to this point.

The Acting Speaker: I will appreciate the member speaking to the resolution.

Mr. Cureatz: Obviously you were not listening; if you were listening—

The Acting Speaker: I am listening. Please speak to the motion.

Mr. Cureatz: If you were listening you would have realized—

The Acting Speaker: Please speak to the motion.

Mr. Cureatz: —that it is coming to fruition. That point was that the co-chairmen of the lawyers of the assembly were trying to tell lawyers across the province that those lawyers had better be speaking in unison to all of us here in the assembly so that their concerns could be reflected.

I was just in the process of bringing to all members' attention that, interestingly enough, the then member for Ottawa Centre and I, when he was on the procedural affairs committee—

Hon. Mr. Sterling: Where is he now?

Mr. Cureatz: Interestingly enough, I stand to be corrected, or be seen to be corrected, he is now a federal member at the august place referred to as the House of Commons, by some 62 great votes, as I recall.

However, I do not want to stray from the main point at hand. That main point was an article that I had written, and which was published in the Ontario Lawyers Weekly, about a concern that I had with the member for Ottawa Centre, namely the election of benchers.

9:10 p.m.

I was at that point stating that lawyers' concerns would be directed, in the first instance, to that bencher who would be representing a particular constituency outside the area of the city of Toronto. Failing a satisfactory resolution of the matter, other benchers would be approached. To further strengthen the connection between lawyers and benchers, the latter would be expected to establish and maintain contact with their constituents through an annual communiqué, very similar to what we have here at Queen's Park in terms of our biannual report. I know the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) regularly puts out such a report.

Such a change, however, still leaves the 20 benchers from Toronto in a dominant position, since the advantage of location alone makes it more likely that they will play a very active role in the affairs of the law society.

On reflection, with regard to the procedural affairs reports 7 and 8—and the clerk at the table is smiling like a Cheshire cat—interestingly enough, I forgot to tell the members that when we had this dinner meeting the clerk was in attendance and took minutes, of which I have a copy. Does the clerk still have his copy? A little nod would be appreciated.

I went on to say that, at the same time, benchers in general need to establish an ongoing dialogue with members of the provincial Parliament. Since 1797, for example, the Law Society Act has been amended more than 40 times to ensure that members of the provincial Parliament understand the legislation. To avoid misconceptions regarding the role of benchers in the law society, the time has come to establish some formal channels of communication. That is only some 200-odd years and they have still yet to talk to us.

Contrary to the widely held notion that most MPPs are lawyers, the fact is that fewer than 20 per cent are. I continue on with reference to the fact that those lawyers who are here are not particularly interested in a great, general, emphatic way about concerns of lawyers across the province.

I went on to say that it is to the credit of the law society that the treasurer, Laura Legge, has shown a real interest in furthering this very type of dialogue. My discussions with benchers A. Burke Doran and Kenneth Jarvis, secretary of the law society, have also led to interest in strengthening relations between the groups.

Interestingly enough, I think it was because—not solely, but partly—of the discussions of myself, the member for Kitchener and the member for Riverdale with the treasurer that although the Law Society of Upper Canada was very hesitant to come before the procedural affairs committee, because there were great concerns that the law society was independent of the government of Ontario and as a result could not be reviewed by the procedural affairs committee, in any event, it did come forward and, as a result, we do have a very good report in terms of the law society.

I went on to indicate very briefly, in recognition of the report that has since been put up by the procedural affairs committee, that as a politician I have been lobbied by some of the best organized groups in the province and have often wondered why there is no comparable organization acting in the interest of lawyers. The need for an organized voice for lawyers in Ontario has been widely recognized.

At least three separate groups of lawyers are now involved to varying degrees in exploring the issue further—I have already brought that to the attention of members—those groups being the Ontario Lawyers Association, the presidents' committee of the local law association and the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division.

I went on to specifically indicate what those three groups were up to, and I concluded in this article by saying: "While it is encouraging to see that preliminary steps have been taken to address the need for an organized voice for lawyers, much remains to be done.

"Given the nature of the task that lies ahead, it is vital that all three groups of lawyers, as well as individuals, work together to achieve a common end. Unless co-ordination and co-operation are established now the goal could well be lost in the morass of conflict out of which lawyers and the public would surely be the losers for some time again.

"To prevent such a possibility, formal meetings of the executive of the Ontario Lawyers Association, the presidents of the local law association and the executive of the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario section, may well be indicated."

That article met with a reasonable degree of success. The attempt was to bring to the attention of lawyers across Ontario that there were those of us in the assembly who are trying to instil in those various legal groups an interest in those groups speaking on behalf of other lawyers across Ontario.

Lo and behold, after almost two years of correspondence, work, dinner meetings and discussions, the Ontario Lawyers Association, the Canadian Bar Association and the three MPPs had what was termed a summit meeting to discuss who would ultimately speak on behalf of lawyers and lawyers' concerns to all of us in the assembly.

The article that was reported in the December 23, 1983, Ontario Lawyers Weekly went as follows, taking some of the more important aspects:

"All three MPPs,"—namely myself, the member for Riverdale and the member for Kitchener—"put the case to their fellow lawyers bluntly.

"With blissful ignorance, the lawyers have avoided any attempt to do other than confirm among the members of the Legislature their hidebound and inborn wariness of any lawyers," says Jim Breithaupt (L-Kitchener), relating to Ontario Lawyers Weekly the gist of his remarks at the Albany Club.

"Mr. Breithaupt, Liberal provincial Justice critic, went on to say that 'unless I am the exception to the rule, lawyers have not been bothering to really deal with their elected members whatever their label is.'

"He suggested that lawyers should be lobbying their individual MPPs at the constituency level as

well as at Queen's Park. Mr. Breithaupt noted that other professional bodies, particularly chiropractors, accountants, doctors and dentists, have to varying degrees done a more effective job of lobbying their members on issues of self-interest.

"Of all the professional organizations, the lawyers clearly do the worst job of public relations," he said. Mr. Breithaupt suggested that lawyers should remember that even though there are only a small minority of lawyer MPPs in the Legislature, most MPPs have a 'lawyer or two' on their executive staff." Back in the home riding.

Those members who are listening should put up a hand if they know a lawyer who is on their executive back in their riding. Hurrah! We got one over there. Look at all the lawyers on the executive staffs. We have two lawyers. That is just the point the member for Kitchener was bringing to our attention.

"Mr. Breithaupt said that he cautioned the CBA-O, the OLA and the Committee of Presidents members...about the importance of speaking to MPPs with a unified voice on self-interest issues.

"It would be difficult for one group or another to appear before caucus or to visit with individual members, some wanting one thing and the others wanting the reverse, because there is enough suspicion of the various legal associations by most of the members in the Legislature now, that unless they are all dealing together, it will be very easy to avoid coming out to support any one of them, so it is in their own self-interest."

"Mr. Breithaupt said he thought the meeting was useful and was cautiously optimistic that it was an early step that will lead to more effective lobbying at the Legislature by lawyers." Across the province that is.

I was quoted. I echoed many of the sentiments of the member for Kitchener. Commenting on the meeting, I said that I first thought there was a little bit of defensiveness by the Canadian Bar Association because of what it was doing or had done in the past. The CBA-O had kicked the idea around. However, quite frankly, I had been saying all along that no group has been representing lawyers in terms of a specific lobby group to members of the assembly.

I complimented the member for Riverdale and the member for Kitchener for very forcefully bringing forward their views and criticizing the CBA-O in terms of what we all felt was a lack of interest. I can remember very clearly in my mind the member shaking his finger at Laura Legge, president of the CBA-O and saying, "You know,

in the last 16 years"—since he has been a member of the assembly; now I guess 17—"the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division, could not have done a worse job of representing lawyers to the members of the assembly."

9:20 p.m.

I stared at him and said, "I rest my case," as lawyers quite often say. There was a deathly silence. Unfortunately, it seemed to me that as the meeting continued the then president, Lorraine Gotlib, indicated that nothing much was accomplished. "We just chatted and I was frankly disappointed. I thought more would come out of it, but nothing did."

"Ms. Gotlib said the three MPPs prodded them, noting that 'they're always prodding us. Everybody's always prodding us. You get eight lawyers together; you get 39 opinions.'

"Ms. Gotlib said she was 'accommodating' Ontario Lawyers Association president Gary Valcour by attending the meeting."

Mr. Valcour said, "It was the first time when all the groups kind of sat around the table and said, 'Okay, where's everybody coming from and what's got to happen here?'"

That was a watershed meeting because, interestingly enough, after that meeting it would seem to me that the Canadian Bar Association, as negative as the then president was, took the responsibility for attempting a dialogue with members of the assembly.

The Ontario Lawyers Association; I think, was beginning to have some impact, but as in all associations, it takes a long time to establish and it takes a lot of work at the local level. I think the main core was starting to peter out.

In any event, many of us attended a get-together at the Canadian Bar Association headquarters in March of this year, the first of its kind ever. As I look about the assembly, I see one or two who were in attendance at that meeting. I give credit to the Canadian Bar Association because, as the then president indicated, it was a getting-to-know-you meeting, inviting members of the assembly to come, meet and try to understand what the Canadian Bar Association is all about.

They recommended a get-together, a second meeting. As a matter of fact, I had corresponded for the last couple of weeks and had indicated that the CBA-O should not get too excited in the event of an election. But it had tentatively set aside a date in November to invite all members of the assembly to get together again at its headquarters and at this second meeting to bring forward some of its concerns and relate to members of the

assembly aspects of what is happening in the work place of barristers and solicitors. One of their concerns is the legal aid plan.

The member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) keeps asking, "When do you get to the point?" I have finally got to one of the points, the legal aid plan, which was discussed with some concern in the committee report. The concern was that there was not enough funding in the legal aid plan. The committee asked the Attorney General, "What are you going to do about that?" The Attorney General said, "I am going to try to get some more money." The treasurer of the law society came forward and said, "We would like more money for the legal aid plan."

How does the Attorney General get more money out of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman)? One way is to try to have lawyers from across the province have a group that speaks on behalf of lawyers to put some pressure on all members of the assembly, who would then put pressure on the Treasurer and the Attorney General to beef up the legal aid plan.

Mr. Foulds: Why are those two lawyers not in favour of beefing up the legal aid plan?

Mr. Cureatz: I cannot speak on their behalf, but I think it is the responsibility of all of us to have a better working understanding of the legal aid plan. More important, it is the responsibility of the barristers and solicitors across the province to speak with a united voice through what would appear now to be the Canadian Bar Association to put pressure on us here and to put pressure on the cabinet to try to increase money for the legal aid plan.

We congratulate, after almost two and one half years, the Canadian Bar Association—

Mr. Mancini: And two hours.

Mr. Cureatz: Not quite—an hour and a half. We congratulate it for trying to speak on behalf of lawyers. Mind you, as I indicated, since 1797 is not quite 200 years. Finally, it has come around to the idea that it has to start lobbying and has to start talking on behalf of lawyers.

At the same time, happily enough—and this has not come to fruition, but keep an eye on the incoming mail—the treasurer of the law society, through advice from her benchers, indicated to the three of us—myself, the member for Riverdale and the member for Kitchener—that it would be a good idea for the benchers to get to know the members of the assembly so that they might express on a personal basis some of the concerns the benchers have with regard to the functioning of the law society.

I am quite sure many members of the assembly are not clear what the functions of the law society are, unless they have read the procedural affairs report. Of course, we are all so busy, and I can anticipate that not everyone will read the procedural affairs committee's report. We are all so busy I can anticipate that not everyone will read that report. That is why I am bringing it to everyone's attention because I know my personal remarks will be reviewed in Hansard later this evening by those members who had the opportunity of missing them.

Mr. Foulds: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: The member is making such an important point, I think it is mandatory that we have a quorum to hear it.

Mr. Speaker ordered the bells to be rung.

9:30 p.m.

Mr. Cureatz: Just before I refresh everyone's memory, I would like to thank the member for Port Arthur (Mr. Foulds) for bringing to my attention that there was not a quorum present. I was most embarrassed to think that colleagues on this side of the House were not interested in some of my thoughts and concerns about the seventh and eighth reports of the procedural affairs committee, more specifically the Law Society of Upper Canada and more directly and specifically concerning the very poor public image of lawyers and, interestingly enough, the lack of legal aid funding, which is what my remarks were all about.

I know that for the last five minutes of my remarks all members will remain at the edges of their seats. I do hope the member for Etobicoke (Mr. Philip) is close in the wings because he indicated to me he had one or two things to say about the Law Society Act and the Law Society of Upper Canada.

To refresh members' memories, I was indicating that the Canadian Bar Association had taken some preliminary steps to bring forward concerns of barristers and solicitors across the province to all of us here. Happily enough, the Law Society of Upper Canada was trying to get together a dinner meeting at Osgoode Hall which I know the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk would be more than excited to attend because he has indicated to me he has been scared silly of the cow gates outside Osgoode Hall and that would make any invitation he had to attend there more exciting.

In any event, we are still waiting for the upcoming two items; that is those are the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division,

invitation, and the Law Society of Upper Canada invitation.

Interestingly enough, and the report indicates this, the law society has an annual meeting at which all lawyers across Ontario can attend. There are about 14,000 to 15,000 lawyers. Embarrassingly enough, I had never attended an annual meeting of the law society and I thought to myself it was about time I went. Did the member for Niagara Falls ever go to a contractors' annual meeting, of which association I am sure he was a member? Maybe he never paid. How about the member for Port Arthur? Did he ever go to a teachers' annual meeting locally?

Mr. Foulds: Every year.

Mr. Cureatz: Exactly. Embarrassingly enough, I never went. I was a member of the Law Society of Upper Canada for 10 years and never went. I thought I had better go.

I finally went down to Osgoode Hall and ventured through the cow gates. I will say this cautiously. I thought maybe the acoustics were not appropriate for a meeting because it was very well attended and it was in a very old hall. As a result, one had difficulty hearing the concerns of lawyers who were in attendance.

If I can give a little advice—far be it from me, a humble lawyer from the village of Newcastle, to give advice to the Law Society of Upper Canada—maybe at another time a more suitable location could be found than what they have there within the halls of the law society. I think of the articling course where they have two huge lecture halls which would easily accommodate 1,500 people and is very suited with clear acoustics. I think that would be the way to go next time around.

In any event, notwithstanding the physical layout, some concerns were brought by resolution to the Law Society of Upper Canada and to the benchers in attendance that day. One of the concerns was brought forward by the procedural affairs committee in its seventh and eighth reports, and they were concerns that were reflected by myself and the former member for Ottawa Centre. Those concerns were very distinctively put out in resolution 7, which I think is important to read because, in my humble estimation, maybe not in my lifetime, resolution 7 will some day come to fruition. Is everyone listening to resolution 7?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Cureatz: Do I have everyone's attention, the member for Essex South because this is important? This is the whole thing. Here it comes. Are you ready?

Some hon. members: Yes.

Mr. Cureatz: "Whereas the increasing complexity and change in our society"—that is the Law Society of Upper Canada—"requires an extensive, imaginative and dutiful involvement by the benchers of the Law Society of Upper Canada in addressing the concerns of the profession and the public, and whereas a broader regional practice and economic representation of the profession is needed to ensure that all aspects of the profession in the province are acknowledged and considered, and whereas presently the bench is involved much of the limited time on an increasing number of disciplinary matters to the detriment of other concerns, now be it resolved that"—

Mr. Foulds: Hear, hear.

Mr. Cureatz: Blue Jay, have you got this?

Mr. Piché: What?

Mr. Cureatz:—"at the next election of the benchers, the benchers be elected on a regional basis and that these benchers receive compensation commensurate with the time required of them to properly discharge their duties in addressing the concerns of the profession and the public and that all necessary steps be taken to amend legislation in order to bring these changes about."

Mr. Foulds: What has that got to do with our report?

Mr. Cureatz: The report, interestingly enough, makes that same recommendation.

Mr. Foulds: Read it.

Mr. Cureatz: I have just read it.

Mr. Foulds: From the report.

Mr. Cureatz: It says the same thing.

Mr. Kolyn: Tell him what page.

Mr. Cureatz: It is in my notes and I have read it already. Do I have to go through the whole thing again? I do not think so. We have made reference to it already to the honourable member. Wait a minute. I think it is in my concluding remarks. Page 90, report number 8. Let us just see. I think that is coming up. Here it is, but I am saving that for the grand finale, the bottom of page 90, where the treasurer indicates she is not too happy about this.

I am saying to members of the assembly I think this resolution which, interestingly enough, I had the wonderful opportunity of speaking to at the annual meeting of the Law Society of Upper Canada—

Mr. Foulds: But they rejected that recommendation.

Mr. Cureatz: No, they did not. Who rejected the recommendation?

Mr. Foulds: The treasurer.

Mr. Cureatz: That is right, and that is why I am speaking tonight, because the treasurer rejected it. I am saying to the humble benchers and the treasurer that, indeed, at some future time— This resolution was passed at the annual meeting in May 1983. It was passed by all those lawyers in attendance at that annual meeting and a number of us spoke to the resolution.

Unfortunately, democracy does not always prevail because it is up to the benchers, it is up to that august body, to take the initiative and make recommendations to the Attorney General that the Law Society Act should be amended so there would be regional representation by benchers across Ontario.

Indeed, the member for Port Arthur is correct, because on page 90, report number 8, in response to that recommendation, the treasurer stated, and I am going to have to read this for the record:

“Regional representation has been a concern of the society ever since the first changes were made some years ago through which elections were divided between Metropolitan Toronto and the area of the province outside of Metropolitan Toronto. A difficulty arises when one considers the concentration of lawyers and their distribution throughout the province. If it were done according to population, there would be serious anomalies which would deprive geographical areas of the right to participate in the election of their representatives in the governing body. Regional representation would also introduce a concept of constituency that is perhaps inconsistent with the necessity for each bencher to deal with the matters of the profession on a provincial rather than a parochial basis.”

The point of the matter is the treasurer said no. I want to bring to the attention of members in the assembly that in my humble opinion the procedural affairs committee was correct. We did not put down specifics as to how benchers should be elected across the province, but we put forward the idea that it was about time that democracy prevailed in the Law Society of Upper Canada. Are we so embarrassed about democracy? Why cannot the 20 benchers outside Toronto run on a constituency basis?

The treasurer did indicate—and I must confess we have had discussions on this from time to time—in her comments on the report that it would not be proper for a bencher to represent lawyers on a constituency basis. Why not? Is it not proper for us here to represent our people on a

constituency basis? Goodness knows, geography is taken into account. Take a look at southern Ontario and the manner in which our ridings are distributed. Take a look at northern Ontario. There is not a great population in the respective ridings of the member for Port Arthur and the member for Lake Nipigon. His riding, I think, is larger than England. No response to that? I think it is larger than England.

9:40 p.m.

In any event, there can be accommodations made for this. A committee of the law society could take a look at the number of lawyers there are across Ontario, outside of the city of Toronto. They could take a look at the geographic factor and they could come up with a constituency basis so that those lawyers who want to run for bencher in that particular area would have the opportunity. Instead of trying to mount a campaign across the whole province to become a bencher, that lawyer need only mount a campaign in a constituency similar to what all of us here have.

Mr. Kerrio: It will not work. It makes too much sense.

Mr. Cureatz: I trust Hansard has those remarks by the member for Niagara Falls engraved on paper, because if I have the opportunity, I will send these humble remarks of mine for the last almost two hours to the various benchers, the 40 of them, and bring to their attention all the concerns we have. Indeed, I will bring to their attention the concerns the member for Niagara Falls had and just stated to Hansard.

In any event, colleagues, it has been a tremendous uphill fight, and the battle is not over yet. We will be pursuing with great energy, albeit with great difficulty, the aspect that benchers outside of Toronto should be elected on a constituency basis. We will be pressing forward with the Canadian Bar Association, Ontario division, to continue speaking in a united voice on behalf of lawyers across Ontario, and part of that united voice is the concern of the legal aid plan and the lack of funding. Because of the lack of funding, many lawyers are opting out of the legal aid plan. As a result, the legal aid plan might not be fulfilling the true intent for which it was originally conceived.

I have had the opportunity to discuss the procedural affairs committee's reports 7 and 8 at some length and I apologize to all members of the assembly for taking up the humble few minutes I have. This has been an ongoing battle with myself and the other two members of the lawyers' committee of the assembly and, as I indicated earlier, it is not finished. I give

credit to the procedural affairs committee which made those particular recommendations I made specific reference to.

I am embarrassed to say I have not had the opportunity to make comments about the other recommendations, but I know only too well there are other members here tonight just waiting for the opportunity to let their comments be heard.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, as we sat here and listened to the member for Durham East (Mr. Cureatz), I can say with great honesty that he has completely worn us all out. We surrendered about half an hour ago.

The facts the honourable member brought out and the time in which he took to bring those facts out showed just how seriously the members of the standing committee on procedural affairs take their work. I have been on this committee now for the past four or five years. It is the most enjoyable committee I have ever worked on, mostly because the partisan nature that is part of all other committees does not seem to be quite as noticeable. We have had the practice of all members signing all the reports that are tabled in the House, even though we may not agree with each and every single recommendation. That has made the work of the committee go quite smoothly.

The member may recall that when we met in committee this morning, at around 10:30, there was quite a bit of debate about the matter of conflict of interest. The procedural affairs committee has the other obligation of looking at procedural matters in the operation of committees and so on. However, we talked about the problem of conflict of interest for members. We were wondering how one could tell whether a member is in conflict. If a member is a farmer, are we going to prohibit him from speaking on farm issues? I think the member for Durham East showed very well this evening that one can be a member of an organization and speak for that organization while being a member of the assembly and not be in conflict. Anyway, that is something this committee is going to have to wrestle with in the future.

I do want to make some comments on report 7, dated December 15, 1983. One complaint I have is that it takes almost a year to get these reports debated in the House. Report 8, which we will be dealing with later, is dated June 21, 1984, and that is not too bad. I am somewhat disappointed it has taken so long to deal with report 7 because the work of the committee is very intense. We do get into a lot of detail and we are able to provide the House with a great number of facts which I am

sure the members find interesting. In some cases members may be surprised at what we are able to find out in the operation of these agencies, boards and commissions.

I made some notations here and would like to speak briefly on a number of the agencies we dealt with. Let me start with the Ontario Status of Women Council. We had the council before us some time ago and were quite surprised by its operation. One of the things I was most surprised at was that the chairmanship of the agency was a part-time job. I felt something as important as the Ontario status of women council should have a chairman working pretty well full-time. If memory serves me correctly, I believe it is true the chairman was working on a part-time basis.

The committee also thought, and I have to agree, that now we have a Minister responsible for Women's Issues (Mr. Welch), we are not so sure what the women's council should be doing or whether we should actually have such a council. Some members of the committee felt that the job being done by the women's council possibly should be taken over by the Minister responsible for Women's Issues. We will have to wait and see whether that happens.

9:50 p.m.

I would like to point out one thing. I am not trying to be partisan, and in no way do I want to question the abilities of Sally Barnes. I felt that when she was appointed to this job, and I know it is unfair to even think this way, because she was so close to the Premier—I will not use the term "political hack," because I do not think she is deserving of that term—it undermined the high view that many people had of the women's council. It was seen as just another Conservative being rewarded and going to Tory heaven.

I know these things happen federally and provincially, and I know Mr. Mulroney will be making similar kinds of appointments in Ottawa, but there was something about that appointment that left people not in a comfortable position. I recall getting a number of letters from different women's groups in Windsor and in Essex county expressing that view. I forwarded that information to the Premier, and he was kind enough to respond, saying, of course, that her relationship with him, with his office and with the Conservative Party certainly was not going to undermine the role she wanted to play.

When the government got into hot water over the proposal to establish equal pay for work of equal value in Ontario, we noticed, and we could not help noticing, that Sally Barnes was in the forefront defending the government's position

that yes, it agreed with it in principle, but no, it was not going to put that principle into law.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, because you have a very good memory, the ensuing debate that took place between the Ontario Status of Women Council, with Sally Barnes at the forefront, and the news media and women's groups. It was not a very nice debate. It was a debate in which people had very strong views. Perhaps it is too strong to say that the chairman was just a puppet of the government, but many people felt that certainly the chairman was out there supporting the views of the government.

We on the procedural affairs committee raised the issue of appointments and how people are appointed almost on a regular basis. We were told by every organization that came before our committee that they definitely try to seek the most qualified person. When we asked them how they went about doing this job search, they said, "We know everyone out there who is involved in this field, and therefore we already have a list of people to choose from." That may or may not be a very good answer; frankly, I do not think it is.

There is one example of a high-profile person who had a fine reputation when she worked with the government, but none the less a political reputation, who was appointed to a very sensitive job and who was then caught in the middle concerning whether to come forward for or against government policy. Certainly when she took the position of being in favour of government policy, the cries of "government hack" and "just another political appointment" seemed to be able to stick. Whether that is true or whether it is fair, we are not here to judge; but that certainly was the impression that was left with at least the members on this side of the House.

With those few comments, I would like to move on to discuss the Ontario Manpower Commission, which our committee reviewed. I might say that never has the Ontario Manpower Commission been more important than it is today. We have a great dislocation between people who want jobs and the type of jobs that are available: we have an overabundance in some areas and a lack of qualified personnel in other areas.

To give members an example from the Windsor area, I visited the director of a local hospital. I wanted to tour part of the facility for some different reasons which I do not think the House needs to know at this time. However, in my tour of these facilities and in my discussion with the director of the hospital, it was explained

to me that the department was short five physiotherapists.

I said, "Let's hire five physiotherapists if we need them to serve the people of Windsor." The director answered, "There is a problem." I asked, "What is the problem?" The director said, "There are not any physiotherapists available to be hired here in Ontario." I said to myself: "How is this possible? We have all these community colleges we have built. We have spent billions of dollars in our education system. Why are there no physiotherapists to be hired?" The administrator certainly could not answer that question. That is a question for this Progressive Conservative government of Ontario to answer, a government that has been in office for 41 consecutive years.

Mr. McKessock: That is the problem.

Mr. Mancini: That is the problem. My friend the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock) points out that is the problem.

However, before I left that day, the administrator showed me where he had made a contract with five individuals from England to come over to work in Windsor. Five well-paid jobs were being given to people from outside of Ontario because our education system, our training system, is completely out of whack with what the market is demanding.

I have been informed that the physiotherapists are not trained at the community colleges, but at the University of Toronto and Queen's University. I certainly appreciate this information.

Be that as it may, that in itself does not change the basic problem. The basic problem is not just in the area of physiotherapists. In many skilled trades, we have a shortage of people to fill the jobs that are available. I have heard figures as high as 40,000 that we are short. Tomorrow, we could employ 40,000 people in certain skilled jobs across this whole province.

Therefore, I say again, never before has the Ontario Manpower Commission been more important. I am very glad the standing committee on procedural affairs had the opportunity to review the work of the commission.

While the commission did some research, we found that not all of its research and program evaluation studies were made immediately available to the general public and to the members of the assembly. In my view, that is protecting the government. We want to know how government programs are working. We have the right to know. We deserve to know whether the implemented programs of the government are working.

One of the recommendations of the committee was to ask the commission to make public at once all of its research and program evaluations. We also suggested to the commission that it continue to study such matters as the impact of technology on the Ontario labour market and employment strategies for women.

10 p.m.

We wanted them to undertake additional studies with respect to apprenticeship programs and employment in smaller urban communities. Not everyone can move to Toronto to work; not everyone can live in the Golden Horseshoe. Some people want to live in the communities in which they have been born and raised.

Mr. Foulds: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mancini: I guess that goes in spades for the north.

Mr. Foulds: Hear, hear.

Mr. Mancini: Why am I getting so much support from the member for Port Arthur? Is something going to happen? No; nothing.

I recall that recently during the Labour estimates we had the chairman of the Ontario Manpower Commission before us. He is now an assistant deputy minister. I had a real discussion with him and I was quite concerned about the view that the commission was working either for today and/or for what has happened in the past, and was not looking towards the future.

The chairman of the commission told me at that time: "It is impossible to guess what is going to happen in the future. It is impossible to forecast the future." I was quite perturbed by that comment, because in my view that is exactly the work that the commission is supposed to do. They are in the business of forecasting the future, of forecasting the needs of the people of Ontario, of forecasting what areas of the job market would be available so that this information can be transferred to the secondary school students before they go on to the community colleges and/or Ontario universities. That in itself told me a lot.

Possibly the commission is no longer of that view, but I was quite perturbed when the former chairman told me it was not in the business of forecasting the future. That is exactly its job. We need now, more than ever, a commission that will help us to forecast the future.

I will not touch in any detail on the matter of the law society. The member for Durham East did that in great detail. However, I would like to make a couple of comments about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. I am sure all of us

have heard of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. That is the commission that tries to dispense a few dollars to people who have been victims of crime. That is something I thoroughly accept. People who have been the victims of crime should in some way be compensated if at all possible.

I have read a couple of the reports that have been put out by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. I read about them in the paper every now and then. It seems they give \$800 here and \$1,100 there, \$1,500 here and \$1,600 there. It seems to me, and I want to be as charitable as I can, that the only person receiving substantial compensation from the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board is the chairman, Allan Grossman. I believe his compensation is in the neighbourhood of \$60,000. That is on top of his \$30,000 pension.

Mr. Kerrio: Is that not criminal compensation?

Mr. Mancini: That is criminal compensation. Interjection.

Mr. Mancini: Ah yes, but Brian Mulroney can change that if he wishes, I say to the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies). That opportunity has now left. He can no longer point to my former friends in Ottawa. We are now talking about—

Mr. Robinson: Are they no longer your friends, or are they no longer in Ottawa?

Mr. Mancini: They are still friends, but they are no longer in Ottawa. From now on, at least for the next four years, we will be talking about their kissing cousins in Ottawa.

Do the members on that side not agree with me when I say that paying someone more than \$60,000 a year for doing this little bit of work that the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board does is slightly excessive? Do they not feel uneasy when the Treasurer has to sign two cheques for his dad? Does that not make them feel a little bit uneasy? Gosh, I do not know.

Anyway, Larry has always been good at—

The Acting Speaker: I wish the honourable member would refer to other honourable members of this House by their offices or by their ridings.

Mr. Mancini: Oh yes, Mr. Speaker. I am sorry. I did not mean Larry Grossman. I meant the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick.

Anyway, I am told this appointment may be up for reappointment.

Mr. Kerrio: He would be a triple dipper.

Mr. Mancini: Yes. I am told the chairman might have to take some time off to work in

someone's leadership campaign; or that he may not resign from his job but may work in the leadership campaign just the same, and that would make it even more criminal.

Those are the few comments I have about the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. If the government really means business about compensating victims of crime, let us get serious about it; let us review the whole process. As a matter of fact, one of the direct recommendations from the report made by the committee is, that "The Criminal Injuries Compensation Board strengthen the public's awareness of the board and its function of compensating victims of violent crime."

That is true, but the thing we forgot to mention in this report is that, while it does get headlines every now and then for compensating people, I think \$600 compensation for being involved in a violent crime may not even be worth the process one goes through. To me this is set up more to give Allan Grossman a job than to compensate anyone else.

Mr. Speaker, it is almost 10:07. I was of the understanding earlier today that we would be debating the seventh report tonight and the eighth report at a future date. If that is the case, I would like to withhold my comments about procedural affairs report 8. Is anyone from the New Democratic Party going to speak?

Mr. Philip: Yes.

Mr. Mancini: We had worked out an arrangement today whereby we would adjourn the debate so that the member for Oshawa (Mr. Breaugh) would be able to speak at some future time, but I would like to withhold my comments on report 8.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I have a very brief observation to make.

The Acting Speaker: May we have some clarification from the table? It could be that the member for Essex South is going to have a problem.

I think in all fairness that we will refer back to the member for Essex South, having regard to the fact that, if you do sit down now, you will not be able to regain the floor.

Mr. Mancini: Thank you for that clarification, Mr. Speaker.

I would like to speak on a great number of issues in report 8, but I would like to touch first of all on the IDEA Corp. Just in case time runs out, I want to make sure I have an opportunity to speak on this corporation—another crown corporation, I may say, established by the Conservative

government of Ontario. We spend a lot of time bashing crown corporations that operate from a base in Ottawa, but this is another crown corporation.

You will recall, Mr. Speaker, that this was part of the 1981 Board of Industrial Leadership and Development announcement the Premier made just before the campaign, when he called a big press conference and had this huge billboard behind him that said "BILD." The IDEA Corp. was all part and parcel of that.

The IDEA Corp. is to try to improve technologies and obtain different processes that people want to put into business practice; it is to try to have a person with—for lack of another word—a good idea meet someone with money or, if he cannot do that, try to have some government agency help him along.

10:10 p.m.

I was quite impressed by the president of the IDEA Corp., Brian St. John. I was very impressed with the way he handled himself before the committee. He seemed to have a wide knowledge, or I should say a lot of knowledge, about many different things. I think we have a good man at the top. Whether he is a Tory, I do not know, but in my view he seems to be very capable.

The only thing that bothers me about the IDEA Corp. is that I am still not sure how it fits in with all the other agencies and crown corporations that were supposed to be doing this type of work prior to the formation of the IDEA Corp. We do have the Ontario Development Corp., the Ontario Research Foundation and a couple of other agencies like them. I am not sure where the IDEA Corp. fits in. In the committee's report we did not suggest that this crown corporation be disbanded or that we should sunset it, but in my view it could have easily worked from the ODC or from the ORF.

For example, I recently had a constituent come to see me who had a plan to develop a tractor that would not compact the ground as much as present tractors do. He would do that by pulling a different kind of plough, which would get its power to till the soil not from the strength of the tractor, but from some small hookup that would be on the plough itself. That in itself would force the plough to till the land, and there would be no need for all these huge tractors pulling all these huge ploughs, that heavy tractor weight needed to get the job done. At least that is the way it was explained to me.

Mr. Philip: Could we have a diagram of that? I find it hard to follow.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, we do have a diagram. I am sorry. My explanation was not as good as it could have been.

We have here the IDEA Machine and Automation Technology Fund Inc. The way it was explained to me is that when this individual wanted to proceed with this idea, he visited the technology centre that has been established in Chatham by the Conservative government to take care of ideas such as the one discussed. Then the individuals from Chatham and this farmer from my area came to see me in my constituency office and informed me, "We have a great idea here, but we do not have any way of getting a prototype built or getting the model on to the market."

To me, this just does not make any sense. Why do we have a technology centre to begin with if they are going to turn around and go back to their MPPs to see if they can find the money? That is not going to work. That being the case, it will now have to transpire that I or someone else will have to make representation to the ODC or to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food to get money and have them transfer that money to the technology centre in Chatham, so they can build this prototype, and that should have been done right from square one by the technology centre.

Members of the Legislative Assembly and citizens of Ontario are running around from agency to agency. Each sends us off to another office that has a fancy name. We go to the ODC and it has a nice fancy letterhead. It sends us to the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development, which at this time has more people running around in circles than I have seen in the nine years I have been in the House.

We do not need any more crown corporations, be it the IDEA Corp. or any of the other technology centres affiliated with the IDEA Corp. We need one clearing house for the general public and for the members at large where we can go and say: "This is what we have and this is what we would like to build as a prototype. What do we do?" We get sent to one office and it gets done or it does not get done. Maybe the government members do not have to do this; maybe they do not see that as a problem.

If I have one disappointment with the IDEA Corp., it is that it appears to be just another stop to which people can be sent. As I said earlier, I have great confidence in the man at the top who I think wants to do a good job. We talked about a lot of interesting things, but I see things happening in the field that are just not the way they should be.

I want to talk about a controversial subject at this time. All of us know and we are all saddened that in the past two months a great number of Ontario's police officers have been shot and killed in the line of duty. We had the opportunity to review the Ontario Board of Parole some months ago. Actually, we were quite astounded by the mixup between the parole board's jurisdiction and what the Ministry of Correctional Services wants to do.

I would like to read to the House a short portion of the committee's report. I think the members of the House will be as offended by this as I was along with the other members of the committee. This deals with the temporary absence program controlled and operated by the Ministry of Correctional Services. We are on page 18.

Mr. Kerrio: It is called "bed-and-breakfast incarceration."

Mr. Mancini: My colleague the member for Niagara Falls said it very clearly and very succinctly. He called it "bed-and-breakfast incarceration" and that is indeed what it is. I will quote from page 18, which says:

"Subsequent to the committee's meeting with the members of the parole board, the chairman of the board wrote to the committee providing further comments on the interaction of the two programs, highlighting the possibility that there may be an overlapping of mandates."

10:20 p.m.

We are talking about the Ontario parole board and the temporary absence program. The letter said in part:

"Currently, inmates serving a sentence of 124 days or less may be released outright through temporary absence. Inmates can be admitted to a correctional centre and be on their way back home within a day, or within any other period of time deemed appropriate by the institutional staff. Further consideration is being given to the expansion of this approach to all inmates serving a sentence of up to 180 days.

"In regard to longer-term stays, a proposal is being considered for an intensive supervision project whereby inmates not normally considered as suitable candidates for temporary absence or parole would be released under intensive supervision through the temporary absence program. We were recently informed that there were no limits to temporary absence release and that an inmate can be released at any time under the temporary absence program.

"It was once understood that temporary absence was an absence during the day from an

institution for specific activities—education or employment—with inmates residing in the institution at all other times or away full-time for limited duration of one to five days or one to 15 days for special circumstances. We have been informed that the 15-day leave can be given repeatedly without a return to the institution. This means that the temporary absence program has a mandate which exceeds that of the board.” This means the Ontario Board of Parole.

“It may be then that the board should not exist. I do not feel the committee was aware that parole was in question. While it is a difficult situation for us to face, it nevertheless is a question to be asked and answered.

“It may be that there should be some examination of the two mandates which leads to some clarification and dovetailing of the two activities, or the replacement of one by the other.”

The report continued: “On reviewing the above letter and the evidence presented to it, the committee has concluded that there is some overlapping of mandates as regards the parole board and the temporary absence program. Consequently, the committee believes that the Ministry of Correctional Services should undertake an evaluation of each program to determine the extent to which these two programs overlap and whether there is any duplication of unnecessary functions.

“Your committee therefore recommends”—and it is recommendation 8—“the Minister of Correctional Services undertake an evaluation of the mandates of the Ontario Board of Parole and the temporary absence program in order to determine the overlapping of the two programs.”

I hope we have all understood exactly what this means. It means that a person can be sentenced to an Ontario institution for whatever crime has been committed and not have to appear before the parole board to leave that institution. Such persons can go before civil servants, or I should say civil servants would review their files—I am not even sure whether they have to appear before these civil servants—and they could then be granted parole on a continuous basis and never have to serve a day.

Whether that is right or wrong is not for us here to judge because we do not know the situation of every inmate who is being released. But to say that we have a parole board and then have the parole board’s power usurped in this fashion is an injustice, because people who may be going before the parole board could be turned down and/or let out and people going through the

temporary absence program could be given completely opposite treatment.

The ministry is going to have to make up its mind whether we want a parole board or whether we want it done by civil servants within a community. On the parole board, like all the other boards, agencies and commissions that operate here in Ontario, are a good number of people who are appointed by order in council. Some of them are full-time. I am told the vice-chairmen make salaries of anywhere from \$36,000 to \$45,000 a year. The chairmen have a salary scale of anywhere from \$38,000 to \$70,000 a year. The part-time members of the Ontario Board of Parole who are appointed by order in council get a per diem.

We have the mechanism set up. We are paying high salaries. The offices are all set up. Everything is in place. At the same time, we have the Ministry of Correctional Services usurping their role. What is the purpose of this? Why do we need the temporary absence program? It states very clearly in our report that there are five regional boards. Each region has a full-time vice-chairman. The part-time members are drawn from the surrounding areas to elicit community participation and co-operation. We cannot say that everybody has to come to Toronto to be heard. That is not true. We have five regional boards with a full-time chairman paid anywhere from \$36,000 to \$45,000 a year. There is a system set up.

The Ontario Ministry of Correctional Services Act of 1978 set up the Ontario Board of Parole, which was given the jurisdiction over “any inmate convicted of an offence under any act of the Legislature, any act of the Parliament of Canada or against a municipal bylaw....” It was given wide jurisdiction. Further, for the most part this refers to inmates serving two years less a day and in some cases to parole jurisdiction over federal inmates serving their sentences in provincial institutions.

When we hear what is happening, particularly on a national level, about people being released from jail who are dangerous to society, we are all very concerned. We do not want that to happen. We hope something is done to prevent dangerous criminals being released before their sentences expire.

Right here in our own province we have a situation where the people involved in the parole board say: “Look, you people on the procedural affairs committee, tell the Legislature that it should review what we are doing. Either it is

going to let us do our job or it should abolish the Ontario Board of Parole."

That is exactly what should be done. We should review what is going on. We should let the parole board do its job or abolish the parole board and end this charade where the temporary absence program is now so firmly in place that

people are let out on a daily basis and in some cases they do not even have to spend an afternoon in jail.

On motion by Mr. Mancini, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Ontario

Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Thursday, October 11, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Thursday, October 11, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

COMMENTS IN RIDING REPORT

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I have given notice to the leader of the Liberal Party (Mr. Peterson) that I intended to raise my point this afternoon, and I gave notice to you, sir.

It concerns the Queen's Park riding report of the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri), which I would remind you is a document that is paid for as a result of our privileges as members, is financed by the taxpayers of Ontario, is intended as a report from a member and is not intended to be used for partisan purposes of any kind.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: Just wait. I suggest, in all sincerity, that the members wait for what has to be said.

Half the report is in English and half is in Italian. I am going to read to you a page—

Mr. Bradley: We have read some of your reports.

Mr. Rae: I wish the honourable member would wait and listen.

Mr. Bradley: No, we have read some of your junk.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: As I say, if this were a question of argumentation, Mr. Speaker, I can assure you I would not be raising it. If you will just allow me to read a translation of the Italian section, it is the first section entitled "Politics and Schools." I am quoting from the translation:

"It was with reluctance and always pushed by members of the opposition party that the Premier has finally given to the Catholic schools financial assistance—grants—after 100 years of discrimination. Let us remember that the battle has to continue to preserve the moral and religious influence of the church in our schools, to retain the right to discard teachers who are not Catholic and who are not in a state of grace, and to preserve the spiritual side of teaching.

"The third party—NDP—that has as a goal one school system, without religion and without the possibility of a public Catholic teaching, absolutely cannot merit the support of men and

women faithful to the principles of the Mother Church."

The next section is entitled "OHIP and Abortion." It reads as follows:

"The Ontario government finances abortion through OHIP, the hospital insurance. The NDP, at its convention, has endorsed the concept of abortion clinics as proposed by Morgentaler, financed by public funds. Not even the Conservatives, who are mostly Protestant or atheist, have ever had the temerity to adopt such a platform. A vote for the socialists represents a vote for 55,000 murders a year in Canada. Our policy has been and remains that of allowing abortions financed through OHIP only when the health of the mother is in danger. This healthy and religious moral principle must guide your choice."

Mr. Speaker, I want to advise you that the statement with respect to the New Democratic Party on the question of support for the separate school system of Ontario is a complete and utter misrepresentation of the politics, policies and history of the New Democratic Party. It is not simply a question of argumentation, it is a complete and utter misrepresentation. It bears no resemblance whatsoever to the truth or the facts.

I suggest to you, sir, that there has to be some remedy for members who are, frankly, defamed by statements such as those made by the member for Yorkview in this document.

There are absolutely no grounds for this statement. There is absolutely no foundation for this statement. Every member sitting in this House knows that. Every member in this House who was here the day the Premier (Mr. Davis) announced his policy knows who it was who stood up because our party wanted to join in the statement and wanted to get that statement on the record. Everyone knows the policy of this party that was passed in 1971. Everyone knows the positions that have been taken by Donald C. MacDonald, Stephen Lewis, Michael Cassidy and myself and every single member of the New Democratic Party caucus.

I want to suggest that it is an abuse of the privileges of a member to put out information, paid for by the taxpayers of this province, that is a

complete and utter misstatement and abuse of members of any party.

If I may suggest—and I cannot remember a time in my public life when I have felt as strongly about something as this—to see in a statement financed by the taxpayers of Ontario and put out by a member of this Legislature that our party absolutely cannot merit the support of men and women faithful to the principles of the Mother Church is an abomination.

I ask you, sir, what remedy one can possibly take in order to respond to this kind of an abomination? We are all prepared in public life to put up with argument, we are all prepared to have a debate, we are all prepared to be called names, but to have this kind of statement going out, paid for by the taxpayers, an official document of the Legislature, a complete and utter misstatement of the facts is something which I call on you, sir, to remedy. There has to be some kind of remedy.

I suggest, sir, it should be a very severe remedy indeed. This document has gone to every elector and every householder in the riding of Yorkview. It is apparently an official document with his picture on the front and a statement from the Leader of the Opposition in Italian on the back. It is just one page after this remark about politics and schools. I ask you, sir, what kind of remedy do we have?

I can tell you, sir, that we are not prepared to put up with this any longer. That kind of conduct from a member is completely unacceptable to us and I would think in all fairness it has to be seen as unacceptable to every single member in this House. There cannot be any justification for somebody to resort to that kind of conduct, those kinds of remarks and those kinds of misstatements. It is a complete and total misrepresentation and we are simply not going to accept it.

Mr. Spensieri: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: I beg leave to reply to the leader of the third party. I am quite flattered by the fact that he would make such an extensive study of my report. I simply wish to stand in my place, Mr. Speaker, and indicate to you and to this House that while the statements which I made are somewhat targeted, that party is the one that has refined the art of targeting to new heights.

I would like to say further, not in my defence but as a general statement, that these are personal statements attributable to me and that I stand by them and I will be glad to defend them in whatever appropriate forum.

2:10 p.m.

I simply wish to say that party shows some false and very pretentious irateness when its

council advises its candidates to spread exactly this type of message, albeit unofficial, in the riding and then expects those of us who are engaged in the political process to sit idly by and not use those legitimate powers that have been made available to us through this assembly to spread our message.

I regret the statements are excessively targeted. They must be seen in the light of the people to whom they are addressed. I feel a special grief for those people and I will defend them.

Mr. Rae: They are lies. They are nothing but lies. They are a complete misrepresentation.

Mr. Speaker: Order. Quite obviously I have not seen the document. I would like to have a copy of it so I may peruse it and see just what it does say.

As a general statement, however—and I thought we had made this abundantly clear—those services provided to members of this Legislature and paid for by the taxpayers of Ontario are not to be used in any way in a partisan or political manner.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. As far as I am concerned, this is a serious matter. It is something I have brought to the attention of the Board of Internal Economy on past occasions. I will bring this matter to the attention of the board and all the representatives of all the interested parties at the next board meeting on Monday.

The time has come when we are either going to abide by the guidelines or do without these services. Thank you.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I want to make it very clear I am not talking about material that is politically argumentative. I am talking about material that is defamatory and completely and grossly untrue. I have never seen a statement in any other newsletter that rivals this. I have never seen such a statement. It is completely false. It is an utter falsehood.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The honourable member will please resume his seat. I know exactly what you are saying, but as I said before, I have not had time to read it.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Women's Issues about his notes for an address and speech yesterday to the Canadian Club. It is a carbon copy of several other

speeches he has given on the same subject in the past little while.

There were some veiled threats to the private sector about their actions concerning affirmative action. He also said, and I am quoting his own words, that "the Ontario government is recommending every company implement its own version because it is the fair and equitable thing to do and because it produces results."

Would the minister be good enough to stand in this Legislature and tell us how many women have acceded to the inner corridors of power in the government? How many female deputy ministers does he have? How many female assistant deputy ministers does he have? What is the government's record?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I am flattered the leader of the official opposition makes reference to my speech yesterday at the Canadian Club. I do not know whether he has had an opportunity to read it because certainly what we were talking about there is something I am sure he would embrace. That is the concept of equality.

We talked in terms of equality on at least two fronts: about personal security, which would provide an opportunity to talk about family violence and the unfortunate victims of that type of unacceptable behaviour; and we talked about equality in the work places of Ontario, which provides us with an opportunity to talk about the whole question of access to employment and opportunities for advancement within employment.

It also provided me with an opportunity at that time to talk about the government's affirmative action program, in which I am sure all members of the Legislature would take some pride. Over the last 10 years, with the leadership of some dedicated people, we have set some very positive goals and targets with respect to the advancement of women in the public service. It is a record worthy of emulation by any private sector employer.

As the honourable member will know if he looks at the last annual report of the women crown employees office, all those matters are documented. It is quite clearly set out in every part. We have established targets in many areas where women have been underrepresented, and we have reached those targets many years ahead of time.

The record of the government is clear with respect to these various areas of responsibility and is contained in the report of the women

crown employees office, which was tabled in this House.

Mr. Peterson: I asked the minister a very specific question about how many women deputy ministers and how many women assistant deputy ministers there are. Does he know the answer to that question? After all, that is the highest power in the public service. If he was sincere in his statements, and if there was even a rough match between the performance and the rhetoric he provides, he would obviously be making progress in that regard.

My question to the minister specifically is, what is his record? How many women deputy ministers and how many women assistant deputy ministers does he have?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Although the question is very specific with respect to two areas of responsibility, I think the Leader of the Opposition does the whole affirmative action program here a great disservice. I pointed, and he must see it in context, to the evolutionary program that has been developed over a period of time and that has provided us with an opportunity to establish practical goals and targets with respect to all categories of employment in the public service. We have established those goals in an honest attempt to make sure that there has been some advancement in that area.

The management module from which many of these appointments would be drawn has reached that target 16 years ahead of the targeted time, which shows something of the devotion of those who have been involved. It has to be seen as tremendous progress in the various levels from which senior management positions are drawn.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, we had an exchange about this question of affirmative action many times in the last session. Could the Deputy Premier explain why the so-called voluntary affirmative action remains a secret in terms of which companies are involved and exactly what targets they are setting? Why is the program that he has established such a well-kept secret?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I have appreciated having these questions from time to time and I was motivated, on the basis of the exchanges in the House, to spend most of the summer consulting with a number of presidents and chief executive officers of large firms in Ontario. In fact, I completed two more sets of such meetings today.

I have come away from those discussions saying that perhaps we do not have all the information we should have to tell a more complete and fairer story with respect to develop-

ments in so far as equality of access to and advancement in the work place are concerned. I think many of the private companies themselves realize it is about time they told their stories and shared this information.

We were respecting a certain degree of confidentiality that we undertook to maintain in getting this information through our consultative service. I said I did not think that was going to be satisfactory. I said I thought the questions that were being raised with respect to what was going on in the private sector were legitimate questions and that, if there was a positive story to be told, it should be told. I have used those consultations, which have been extensive and have been with many people, to indicate that we would at least like ample evidence that the government's record is being matched in the private sector.

2:20 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: The minister is obviously embarrassed to be specific about this situation because the specifics are very embarrassing for him and come nowhere near matching his rhetoric.

Would he not agree with me that, according to our quick survey through the telephone book this morning, there is one woman deputy minister, a deputy provincial secretary, and that two out of 51 assistant deputy ministers are women? Would he not agree with me that there are 44 women executives compared to 598 men and that 456 men earned more than \$59,000 in the public service while only 63 women did?

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I am giving him the facts he is not aware of, Mr. Speaker, even though he is the minister responsible.

About 71 per cent of the women in Ontario's public service earned under \$21,000, but 75 per cent of the men earned over that amount of money.

Would the minister not agree that he has to clean up his own house before he can lecture or threaten other people?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, as the leader of the official opposition reminds me, it would be fairly ineffective to be dealing in the private sector without making sure there were some positive initiatives being implemented as far as the public sector was concerned. I accept that. Indeed, I would remind him, in all fairness, if he would review the record of the past 10 years, he would come to some conclusions that might differ from the tone of his question.

There are, in fact, 63 women in the executive compensation plan within the public service. The Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) overlooks the chairman of the Civil Service Commission, who holds the rank of a deputy minister. In addition to the Deputy Provincial Secretary for Justice, there are three assistant deputy ministers who are women and there is a host of directors and executive directors, which illustrates the point I am trying to make in answer to the supplementary question.

We have been building over this period and we are in a very strong position to see even further expansion of this because of the work that has been done by very dedicated people over this time.

Mr. Peterson: If I were going to ask the minister another question, I would ask him how many times he is going to give the same speech again, trying to persuade people he is doing something serious. But I will not ask him that.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations with respect to the Thom commission.

Is the minister aware that about 15 minutes after the tenants' umbrella group from Metro pulled out of the phase 2 hearing of the Thom commission, the counsel for that hearing, Don Jack, was on the phone to the Federation of Ottawa-Carleton Tenants Associations offering it \$25,000 to participate in the proceeding, obviously trying to salvage this discredited inquiry?

Does the minister approve of that kind of behaviour? Is he now going to search out various groups and pay them to appear and try to give some semblance of respectability to that commission inquiry, or is he going to do the humane thing and put it out of its misery now?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am not aware whether the statement made by the Leader of the Opposition is factual. I will certainly make inquiries. As this House knows, the commission of inquiry is in charge of its own operations. I will certainly look into that aspect of things.

I must say personally, though, that Mr. Thom decided on his own—and I think quite properly—to divide the study into two phases.

Phase 1 was to look at requirements the government might consider as it continues with the process of supporting rent control in the province and trying to make it as equitable and fair as possible. That is what he has just

completed and, as I say, I expect that report will be released shortly without any delay.

Phase 2 had a somewhat broader mandate and one I would have thought the Leader of the Opposition would have supported. For example, the second phase will be looking at tasks such as determination of the particular objectives of rent regulation; consideration of what alternative methods of rent regulation may be adopted to achieve those objectives; consideration of the method of implementing alternatives under consideration; as well as looking at the issue of what options governments might look at with respect to housing in a range that is affordable for all people.

I think those are very fundamental and important considerations that the second phase is looking at. I would hope parties who have an interest in these issues will take part. Certainly, Mr. Thom has indicated his belief that these are matters the government should receive some advice about or some comment on.

With respect to the other matter the member raised, I will certainly look into it.

Mr. Peterson: The minister must be aware, as the minister responsible for appointing this commission to try to get himself out of a dilemma and defer dealing with these questions, that the commission has now been thoroughly discredited. The Federation of Ottawa-Carleton Tenants Associations has turned down this \$25,000 offer and is not going to appear at the Thom commission.

Now we have the spectacle that, because of the general lack of faith in the minister's inquiry, the major tenant groups in this province are not going to participate, so he will not have the benefit of their opinion. Surely that should say to him as the minister, should be additional proof at the very least, that this commission has been discredited and he is using it as an excuse for inaction that is no longer valid.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I ask the minister again, why not put it out of its misery before he and the commission go through further embarrassment, as is inevitably going to happen.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The government and certainly this minister feel no embarrassment whatever with respect to the Thom commission. Indeed, I have clearly stated my views on it. I would think the Leader of the Opposition would have some fundamental interest in the matters that are being considered by Mr. Thom in phase 2.

I hope there will be more public participation in it. Certainly the public is interested in what is going on there, and I would think this Legislature should be interested in those considerations, transcripts of which will be available for everyone to consider and comment on. I think the process should continue.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask whether the minister could review the first edition of yesterday's Sun under the byline of Steve Payne. I am tentative about my question because the story was not in the second edition of the Sun, as I understand it. I would like to ask him to investigate whether or not, when asked about the pullout of the tenants, Commissioner Thom made certain derogatory remarks, to put it mildly, about those same tenants.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I have no knowledge of that story; I did not read it. I would expect that it would not be Commissioner Thom's way to make derogatory remarks about parties. From what I understand, he has had a great deal of respect for and interest in the particular parties.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, some two years ago the minister very sincerely gave his support, as I recall, to the establishment of a rent registry in this province. Now it has been discussed for some time, but we have not seen him follow through in that regard.

Would the minister not agree now, given the delays with the Thom commission and the questions of where the reports are, who has and has not read them, who is proofing them, when we will get them and all the confusion, that this at least, a policy to which he has given some support personally, should be implemented? It is two years old now. Why not move immediately on it? I do not know the cost of establishing it. Probably the minister does not either, but it is probably less than the whole price of the Thom commission, which is leading us nowhere at the present time. Why can we not use those moneys to establish that rent registry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: This is one of the issues that I understand will be addressed in the Thom report. When it is, then it will be a matter for the government to consider and make recommendations to this House on.

2:30 p.m.

SPENDING ON INFORMATION SERVICES

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Chairman of Management Board (Mr. McCague), I have a question for the Deputy

Premier. It concerns the rather bizarre fact that, while the recent report of the public accounts shows that government spending on programs was less than the amount estimated, the amount for information services showed a seven per cent overrun.

In some ministries there was a very extensive overrun for information services. The Ministry of Agriculture and Food was up 22 per cent; the Ministry of the Attorney General had an overrun of 23 per cent; the Ministry of Correctional Services had an overrun of 19 per cent; the Ministry of Industry and Trade had an overrun of 59 per cent; the Ministry of Natural Resources had an overrun of 38 per cent, more than \$1.5 million above what was originally budgeted for information services, and so on and so on. Even the budget in the department of the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), who has been parading himself as such a great representative of restraint, showed a 15 per cent overrun in comparison with the original estimates.

Can the Deputy Premier explain this discrepancy? Can he explain why it is so true of information services?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, obviously there may be some special circumstances that could be included in any answer for any particular ministry. I think the most effective way to elicit that type of information has always been in my career here to go to estimates. The member will find that ministers present themselves before the estimates committees, and the whole budget is then up for review.

I might just mention one. For instance, the member makes some reference to my colleague the Treasurer. It is my understanding that his estimates have not yet been called. I suppose I could go through all the others to the extent that the member has named them, but I think all that information is available.

The difficulty comes in making these generalized statements. That does not really provide us with an opportunity to speak to what might be special circumstances that might explain those particular totals. I am sure each minister would welcome the opportunity of providing that type of information to the member.

Mr. Rae: The minister is in the wrong year. I think he has missed the point. What the figures show is that the estimates process is a bit of a farce because what it shows is that the figures that are put before the members in estimates are not the figures that turn out to be the actual amounts spent in the ministry's concern.

Rather than proving the minister's point, they completely contradict it. What these figures demonstrate is that the estimates process as it currently exists is simply avoided by many ministers, who then go around the whole estimates process, go to Management Board and get the extra authorization for amounts well above and beyond what was originally budgeted for information services.

We have been watching all the great ads on television about how the Ministry of Natural Resources plants trees and so on. Can the minister explain—\$3.7 million was the figure that was to be debated in the estimates; \$5.2 million was the figure that was actually spent—how the ministries justify those kinds of overruns?

Hon. Mr. Welch: I think the leader of the third party underestimates his ability to extract that type of information in this whole process. He is surely not trying to suggest that the process does not provide him with the opportunity of presenting those facts and obtaining the answers to the questions which he has the right to ask.

I hope the leader of the third party is not suggesting that we do not have some responsibilities to make sure that the public we serve has the information it needs with respect to a number of these very important programs as they are related to the delivery of those programs.

I am quite satisfied that if he really wants that information he will get it. In the briefing books for estimates and in all the material that is made available at the time, I think there is no question that last year's estimated figures and actual expenditures are all spelled out there as well, which provides information for his question.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, why would the Deputy Premier not live up to his reputation of succinct and direct answers and simply tell the House that his colleagues in the ministry thought there was going to be an election and they have been spending money promoting their ministries and themselves for electoral purposes, just as the Tory party has been doing for the last 40 years? Why can he not just tell the House that is the cause of the overrun? There is no other cause.

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons the Deputy Premier could not include that in any succinct answer is that the Deputy Premier for 21 years in this House has always told the truth.

Mr. Nixon: But not the whole truth.

Mr. Rae: I just think the Deputy Premier has to come up with a better answer than he has done so far in explaining a very simple discrepancy.

When one looks at programs, one finds the government has managed to spend less than was estimated. In that sense the estimates themselves were misleading. If we thought so much money was being spent on a program by the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) or the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell), we found less money was spent, but in one particular area we found this was not true.

We found there was a significant overrun in some departments, for example, an overrun in the Ministry of Tourism and Recreation as high as 94 per cent. Budgeted at \$433,600, it came out at \$839,652. The budget was practically twice as high as the amount that was originally estimated. Can the minister please explain to us in simple language how that kind of mistake could have been made in department after department after department?

Hon. Mr. Welch: With all due respect, I thought we made the point quite clear that it would be on a ministry-by-ministry basis. I am sure there are explanations for any particular ministry's expenditures. Information is very important and it is essential that these ministries communicate with the larger constituency. No doubt there is some very reasonable explanation with regard to the particular ministries to which the member made reference. Why does he not drop in at estimates? I am sure they would be very happy to have him.

TAX BURDEN

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I have another question for the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman). His material is still on his desk and I was hoping he would stay, but he appears to have gone. I know he is busy and has many phone calls to make.

In the absence of the Treasurer, I will ask a question to another senior economic minister, who I know will be interested in this question. That is the Minister of Industry and Trade, who I see is joking with the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry). I am sure they have got a lot to joke about these days.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: He seems to have recovered almost totally. He looks a lot younger than he did even last week. I would like to ask the minister this simple question. In his May budget—and I assume he was speaking for the minister and for the government—the Treasurer stated that a major tax increase would undermine activity and confidence.

As the minister will know, last week the federal Minister of Finance imposed a one per

cent increase in the federal sales tax, which will mean an increase in payment of between \$60 and \$70 per household per year. The Canadian Tax Foundation says it could be an increase in revenue of between \$1 billion and \$2 billion. Informetrica reports it is going to cost 4,200 jobs in one year across Canada, which means 1,200 jobs in one year in Ontario.

I would like to ask the minister how he feels about that increase in the federal sales tax. Can he please make some comments with respect to changes in Ontario's tax arrangements which would offset the effect of the tax increase in Ontario?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, to ask me about taxes in another jurisdiction makes it difficult for me to answer.

Mr. Kerrio: Oh, come on, you are kissing cousins.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: To be accurate, with respect to the posing of the member's question, the tax was imposed by a Liberal government; it was not imposed by a Conservative government. Had there been a reduction in tax imposed by that Liberal government effective that date and had we not lived up to it, all whatever would have broken loose. Given all that, of course, I am not happy as the Minister of Industry and Trade, nor was I in my previous job as Treasurer, ever seeing tax increases.

I am not privy to the state of the economy of this country, save to say that after 16 federal Trudeau years our deficit is at least twice as bad per capita as the American deficit. I certainly do not envy Mr. Wilson the tremendous task given to him. Perhaps the kindest thing he can be doing to us now, in terms of the future of jobs for the people of this country, is making sure our deficits do not get worse.

Mr. Rae: The overwhelming evidence is that the government of Ontario will receive a windfall benefit of somewhere around \$50 million in its own sales tax revenue, since the government's sales tax revenue is a tax upon tax. It is going to be passed on through what the larger manufacturers do in terms of the pattern that has been established in the past.

I would like to ask the minister whether he made any representations to Ottawa with respect to the imposition of this tax, which is grossly unfair to the Ontario taxpayer and which is only going to result in a slowing down of the Ontario economy.

Hon. F. S. Miller: No, I did not. I do not know whether my friend the Treasurer, who would be the more appropriate minister, has done so. The member should pose that question to him. The fact remains that the third party would have spending for ever without any reference to deficit or the effect of deficit. This party has always believed in fiscal integrity, and I suspect a first small step towards fiscal integrity is going on in Ottawa now.

2:40 p.m.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, is the Treasurer not aware that his federal colleagues, his political cousins, called this tax a step towards recession and still imposed it? Perhaps he will agree that the reason he did not object is that it is an additional windfall to the Treasury of Ontario, since our sales tax is applied on the increased cost of cigarettes, liquor and all the other things that fall in the ambit of the federal increase. Does the minister not agree that the windfall accrues to the Treasury of Ontario and that is why he did not object? It was money from heaven.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Not at all, Mr. Speaker. When it comes to sales tax, Ontario and the federal government have totally different political problems. I am sure the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk knows it. By whatever grand design, the federal government never shows its sales tax. The average guy does not know what federal sales tax is collected.

Mr. Nixon: But you put the tax on their tax.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Our tax is not illegal.

Mr. J. A. Reed: It is certainly immoral.

Hon. Mr. Norton: How would the honourable member know?

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: I do not want the minister to carry the can for the Treasurer as I am sure, given the changed circumstances this week, that minister will be very reluctant to do that himself. Does the minister not think it fair that the Ontario sales tax credit should be enriched sufficiently to offset the effect in Ontario of this very unfair tax increase to consumers and manufacturers? Does he not think that is the fair thing to do?

Second, will he please guarantee that the Inflation Restraint Board will keep an eye on any industry profit-taking under the concealment of this tax? He knows that many times big industries pass on their own price increases hidden and rolled into such tax increases. Will he have the Inflation Restraint Board have a look at the

increases and roll them back if anything unfair is going on?

Hon. F. S. Miller: The latter is a projection of fact that is not likely to happen with the federal sales tax or the Ontario sales tax, because the tax is charged on the price the industries set. I do not think there is a great risk of that happening, because we have a very price-conscious market and many companies say it is the market that keeps their prices in line, not their insatiable desire for profits.

ASSISTIVE DEVICES PROGRAM

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I noticed a minute ago the Minister of Health seemed awfully anxious to answer questions this afternoon.

Mr. Speaker: Ask him one.

Mr. Sweeney: Perhaps we should ask him one just to give him the opportunity.

The Minister of Health will be aware that as of this December, the War Amputations of Canada will be discontinuing its Paylimb program, a program under which it has paid out in the neighbourhood of \$500,000 each year since 1980.

The minister will also be aware that his own assistive devices program advisory committee has recommended that phase 2 of this program should be implemented, that adults as well as children be assisted by the provincial Treasury.

Given the confluence of these two issues, can the minister indicate to us today precisely what he plans to do?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it would be difficult for me to indicate at this point precisely what I propose to do other than in process terms. I have had an opportunity to review the results of the assessment of the existing program. I have also had an opportunity to review with staff some of the recommendations to the ministry that were developed internally, as well as some of the options developed by staff at my request.

I have narrowed the options to what I would describe as the preferred options or recommendations I will now take forward to my colleagues for their consideration. I do not yet know what the outcome of that will be, but in terms of the time frame, I think it is considerably closer to a decision than was the case when questions were raised with me in the spring.

Mr. Sweeney: I have to wonder whether the minister is aware of the importance of the time factor. Here we are talking of one source, War Amps, that has indicated it is cutting its program

off as of this December. The most recent issue of *Advocate* from the Ontario March of Dimes indicates it is becoming financially onerous for them to continue supporting so many people and points out that the new technologies with respect to assistive devices simply are not being used by people because they cannot afford them.

Of a specific nature, a case was brought to my attention just a few days ago of an older person who has to pay \$525 out of his own pocket. He is retired, elderly, living on basic income and it is costing him \$50 a month. He says he simply cannot afford it.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: I guess the point we have to make to the minister is that the time factor is becoming more and more critical, that the outside agencies that have been doing this job simply cannot continue to do it and that as a result, Ontario's disabled citizens are not able to have these devices which enable them to live their lives more fully.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Obviously, I am concerned about the issues as they relate to timing. Also, I am not entirely a babe in the woods when it comes to recognizing that maybe, from time to time, certain announcements may be made for strategic reasons.

I would hope any organization that has been involved, with public support, in the provision of assistance to some of the individuals who are in need of assistance with prosthetic devices would not withdraw the support in some peremptory fashion to try to precipitate an earlier decision when they know the matter is actively being considered now with a view to a resolution. Surely, the contributions that the public has been making to those organizations has been for the purpose of maintaining that support.

ACTIVITIES OF POLICE

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Attorney General. I raised this matter on April 27, again on May 13 and May 22, and again on June 22 with himself or with the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor), about the case of William Franklin Baker. It was on April 24, 1984, that his agent, Assistant Crown Attorney Watson, stood in the court and in a very laconic way simply said charges were being withdrawn because there was reason to doubt the veracity of the confession.

I would like the Attorney General to report to the House the result of the investigation with respect to the circumstances surrounding the

arrest, detention and subsequent discharge of Mr. Baker.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member will also recall, and I think this is of importance to all members of the House, that the counsel for Mr. Baker had some very complimentary remarks to state about the role of the crown attorney's office in the withdrawing of that particular prosecution. I know the member for Riverdale is well aware of that fact.

In so far as the investigation is concerned, my recollection is that the last time I addressed this issue I indicated to the member for Riverdale that there was a very comprehensive Ontario Provincial Police investigation going on into this matter. I cannot advise the members of the House as to whether that investigation has been completed other than to state that to the best of my knowledge, it has not been completed.

It may be that the Solicitor General has more up-to-date information and could add to the incomplete information I obviously have at present.

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, I received the report of the completed investigation yesterday, but the office has not read it. It was just delivered yesterday.

Mr. Renwick: We are certainly making progress. Will the minister table the report in the House this afternoon so the members will have the opportunity to read it at the same time that he reads the report?

Hon. G. W. Taylor: No.

2:50 p.m.

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I have a question I would like to direct to the Treasurer. With the release of the employment statistics last Friday, indicating that youth unemployment has jumped by 2.7 per cent in the last month, can the minister indicate why his bold new program to foster youth employment, announced in the budget last May, has been such an abject failure?

When are we going to hear in this House of some sorts of programs and commitments of public money which are going to come to the assistance of the 156,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 who are currently unemployed and seeking employment in this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, in terms of the youth unemployment rate, we should try to keep in perspective the fact that the youth unemployment rate is significantly lower than

last year's. While we had an unusually quick recovery in that rate earlier this summer—I believe it dropped as low as 12.2 per cent, which was relatively good—I did indicate at that time that it probably would moderate back up. Although it has moderated back up, it remains well below last year's average and the averages for the previous years.

What does that tell us? First, it tells us that the programs we have undertaken over the last couple of years specific to youth and in terms of the economy in general must have been having some impact. We have figures that are much better than those of the rest of Canada and, for that matter, many other jurisdictions.

Second, with regard to our youth programs, I know the honourable member recalls that the budget last May indicated these programs would not impact significantly this summer and fall; they would maintain the traditional level of short-term youth employment programs. We did that, and that is reflected in the figures. In terms of assessing the impact of our youth programs—and I still think they will be exceptionally strong and will have a great impact—it will be more than a couple of months and perhaps as much as a year before we can assess their full impact.

I should add one other thing. As I indicated from day one, some of those programs will prove to be very successful; others will not. As we have experience with those programs, we will adjust them and flow funds to the ones that have gone well and terminate the ones that have not. Right now, we are gratified with the progress to date.

Mr. Nixon: We really cannot refer to these as new programs; they have been in operation for five months. When questioned in the spring session, the Treasurer indicated, "It takes some time to get a program up and running." He is saying the same thing now as he said then.

He has employed, with much fanfare, Ken Dryden, a very fine Canadian—we are fortunate to have him—but really hung him out to dry, because the programs are inadequate and inadequately funded. He knows his special program for youth tourism, which was supposed to be operating this summer and fall, has just barely got off the ground, and even consultations were delayed until August.

Surely the Treasurer must realize that having 156,000 of these unemployed young people concerns every member of this Legislature. We are in session; let the minister tell us what to do as far as his programs are concerned to make them work. At present, they are failures.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I know we will not agree on this, but I must say that one cannot declare them to be failures. They are just being implemented, and from the reception we are getting through the youth employment counselling centres and, might I say, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, all indications are that there is a huge take-up.

Mr. Wrye: Surprise, surprise.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I will tell all the chambers of commerce that the honourable member looks askance at them, but I will bet he does not say that to them when he meets with them.

If my friend thinks back to the programs and reflects upon the reality that the best programs will be those that take a lot of private sector involvement and realizes the response of the private sector is key to solving the unemployment problem relating to 150,000 young people, he will see the importance of running these programs the way they are being run.

Mr. Nixon: The Treasurer said it was a bold new initiative.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I might add that Ken Dryden, whom the member acknowledged to be a very capable person, does not report to us that the programs are inadequate. He does not report to us that they are underfunded. He thinks they are quite good programs and is satisfied with the progress to date.

Mr. Foulds: Mr. Speaker, I wonder whether the minister recalls replying to me on June 22 that by September 1 the youth employment programs would have created 100,000 jobs. Was he misinformed at that time or was he misinforming the House?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Neither, Mr. Speaker.

AMATEUR HOCKEY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. Is the minister aware of the new rules that were adopted by the Metropolitan Toronto Hockey League? Let me quote: "The rules in effect for two weeks would impose a match penalty with a two-game suspension to anyone hitting or starting a fight after the whistle. They would also cover the use of undue force in cross-checking, charging into the boards and a two-handed stick slash even if there was no contact." Is the minister aware that after two weeks, the MTHL withdrew those rules?

I also wonder whether he is aware that Phil Vitale, who was responsible in some large way over the past 23 years, has resigned his post with the MTHL for the following reason: "I cannot work under these circumstances. I feel there is a totally different approach to minor hockey now. There is a lot of confusion and manipulation in general by the MTHL board."

I am sure the minister will agree that it was the manipulation by some of the hockey moguls that killed the Hockey Ontario Development Committee.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Martel: Is the minister prepared to establish a body that represents all facets of hockey so that no one group, such as the Ontario Hockey Association, will have the ability through its affiliates to control the new body? Will he ensure there are new young people there, not the hockey moguls who have continued to keep hockey the way it has been for the past number of years?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, the question raised by the member for Sudbury East is an echo of the question he raised Tuesday in which he referred to some rule changes in the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association. The reply today is going to be quite similar to that on Tuesday.

I do not see this ministry or this government setting down the detailed rules on bodychecking, violence and the whole thing in hockey. However, what I did say and what I want to repeat and reinforce today is that we are right now in the midst of setting up an organization that is going to help organized hockey to run its own store, but to run it in a way that is going to reduce some of the violent acts that are taking place at present and resulting in injuries.

As I said Tuesday, I am in agreement to a large degree with the member for Sudbury East, but I am not going to stand here and commit this government to set down in detail all the rules to govern hockey games. However, we will set up an instrument, and he knows full well we are working diligently on doing exactly that.

Mr. Martel: I never even asked the minister to talk about the rules. I never even mentioned the bloody rules. I asked him three distinct questions and he has ignored them all. However, let me ask him another. Maybe he will try one that he can answer. This has come out since my question on Tuesday. I will try to give him an easy one.

I wonder whether the minister is aware of the statement by Terry Adair, who coaches a North Toronto juvenile age team, who said: "The rules were working. Now there have been four major

injuries in the North Toronto MTHL teams that would have resulted in a five-minute major and a minimum of a two-game suspension. The importance of cleaning up juvenile hockey was impressed upon us at the first coaches' meeting this year. Where has the importance gone in two short weeks?"

Will the minister obtain for this Legislature the details of those four major accidents that have occurred since this league—after two weeks of having rules which apparently saw too many penalties—threw the rules out? Will he find out how those four youngsters were hurt, the severity of the injuries and all the circumstances, and bring this material back to the Legislature?

3 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Baetz: I will certainly look into these incidents and, where appropriate, I will bring the information back to this Legislature.

I hope the member for Sudbury East will give us at least two weeks to respond to the larger question, and that is what we are going to do about establishing an organization that is going to bring about greater control in amateur hockey in this province. I am confident we will come up with a satisfactory answer and a solution.

NORTHERN DEVELOPMENT FUNDING

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Northern Affairs. The minister is aware of the increasing demands that the Hemlo gold development, located in an unorganized territory, is putting on adjacent communities to provide expanded municipal and educational services for the increase in population. The minister is also aware that the town councils of Schreiber, Manitouwadge, Terrace Bay and Marathon recently passed a resolution stating that the existing assessment formula and provincial transfer payment program are inadequate to assist the municipalities in meeting the increased demands.

Can the minister tell us what he proposes to do to address these concerns and what financial assistance he intends to implement?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as I am sure the honourable member is aware, my ministry is the lead ministry in the Hemlo development area. Our staff from Thunder Bay is working very closely with the municipalities to try to resolve some of these problems. I would point out to the member that a significant amount of provincial funding is going into this area with regard to the infrastructure—sewers, water, schools and airports—in a number of different ways, so many of

their problems and inquiries are being responded to.

The question of those communities reaping tax benefits directly from the mining activity is something they will have to go through other channels to resolve. They will have to go to the Ontario Municipal Board, as the member well knows, and make an application, as did the town of Ignace some time ago. I informed the reeve of Terrace Bay just about a week ago of that particular route.

Mr. Van Horne: It seems the municipalities concerned feel there is some ad hockery going on. If one looks at the resolutions passed by those communities—passed in concert, I would add—one very significant resolution was passed, and that is the fourth resolution, that the province legislate a formula to provide funds, rather than do it on an ad hoc basis, to provide those ongoing services that communities such as I just described need.

Has the minister considered or is he planning a definite formula instead of using the ad hockery he appears to have been using?

Hon. Mr. Bernier: There are a number of programs to which the municipality can apply, as I am sure the member is aware. In the instance where there is a boom problem, as in the Hemlo area, it is much easier for us to deal with those problems as they come forward. We have also dealt with bust problems, such as they have had in the Atikokan area, in much a similar manner, and it worked very well.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the issue is one that I know my colleague the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) has raised with the minister many times on a personal basis, and I am aware of a great deal of correspondence not only between that member and the minister but also with every reeve in every community that is affected by the Hemlo development.

In the light of that fact, does the minister not feel that, rather than say to each individual municipality, "You should be going to the municipal board and trying to extend your boundaries and trying to deal with that problem," it would be better to have a clear statement of policy from the ministry with respect to a fairer sharing of taxation benefits from those mining developments?

I just say to the minister—and I have heard what he said—that I have spoken to those reeves; in fact, I was in a number of those communities just 10 days ago. The minister knows full well that they are still not satisfied with the actions he is recommending. I hope he will take their concerns

seriously and attempt to address what they feel are some very real financial problems they have as a result of the costs of those developments.

Hon. Mr. Bernier: Mr. Speaker, as I have already pointed out, there are a number of programs specifically designed to answer those problems in a boom situation. It has worked exceptionally well across northern Ontario for the past several years. With the extra infusion and topping up the Ministry of Northern Affairs can do, has done and will do, I am sure we will answer their problems accordingly.

DOMESTIC WORKERS

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. As the minister well knows, on October 1 the minimum wage went up to \$4 an hour, but I understand domestic workers continue to be treated as second-class citizens. The minimum wage for them is still 50 cents below the minimum wage for other workers.

When the minister introduced the equal pay amendment to the Employment Standards Act, he said, "My plans are to strengthen the protection now afforded to domestic workers." In view of that promise, can the minister explain why he is continuing this form of unequal pay and unfair treatment for one of the most exploited groups of workers in this province, most of whom are women?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, my ministry commissioned a province-wide study of the prevailing wages and working conditions for domestics. We are expecting delivery of that study by the end of this month.

Ms. Bryden: In view of the very comprehensive brief submitted to the minister by Intercede, the International Coalition to End Domestic Workers' Exploitation, and the recent endorsement of its recommendations by the Toronto Mayor's Committee on Community and Race Relations just this week, why does the minister have to wait for any more studies before correcting the injustices suffered by domestic workers? Is he mainly interested in saving money for the employers of domestic workers, who are mainly, according to studies, in the \$35,000-plus income bracket?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I resent the inference that I am not concerned with the circumstances of the domestic worker. I remind the member opposite there is a provision for domestics in Bill 141, a bill we were unable to get through the House this spring, that we plan to introduce this fall. If the members opposite truly wish to support the circumstances of the domestic worker, I suggest they take a look at Bill 141 again.

AUTO INDUSTRY AMALGAMATION

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Industry and Trade. Is the minister aware that General Motors of Canada Ltd. is in the process of amalgamating with a computer firm called EDS Ltd.?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I am not.

Mr. Cureatz: Would the minister be so kind as to use his good offices to investigate the amalgamation? In the light of the government's "go east" program, would he use his good offices to approach General Motors and indicate that we in the city of Oshawa and the region of Durham hope there will be no loss of jobs in the computer industry and General Motors outside our area?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Certainly the province does its best to stimulate the creation of jobs in that general area, as evidenced by two or three government actions such as the Ministry of Revenue's relocation or the Liquor Control Board of Ontario's warehouse and so on.

I would also like to point out that the tendency to count job losses is often prevalent, while we do not count job gains. It seems to me General Motors just made a decision to invest more money for plant expansion in that part of Ontario than we have seen in the company's history in Canada. Indeed, that will create a new kanban or Toyota City type of operation which should create more jobs or several thousand jobs, I hope, before it is over.

3:10 p.m.

CHRONIC CARE

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Health. The minister will recall that about 11 months ago, specifically last November, the Essex District Health Council delivered to his ministry a proposal for a 200-bed chronic care hospital to be built on the site of the present Windsor Western Hospital Centre.

Can the minister tell us why it took until July of this year for ministry officials to have any meetings with the district health council on this matter? Can he tell us why there has been only one meeting and where these discussions now stand?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I am afraid I am not personally familiar with the meeting schedule of the staff of my ministry with representatives of the various district health councils. Therefore, I cannot give him a precise response as to the reason, or whether there have been meetings subsequent to the one he mentioned.

With respect to chronic and extended care beds, I can tell him that at the moment I am awaiting a decision. I have made proposals with respect to further allocations within this year and I am awaiting word on those decisions now. I would hope that within the relatively near future I will be in a position to consider requests from across the province for further chronic, extended and, in some cases, acute care beds.

Mr. Wrye: The first question regarding the chronic care hospital is not a new allocation. It is a new facility to replace a building that is almost 60 years old and that in the first instance was a school building.

Since the minister in his response spoke about the allocations of new chronic care beds, let me ask him whatever happened to the 49 beds that his colleague the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman), his predecessor in the ministry, so grandly announced in Windsor in May 1983? Today, in October 1984, those 49 beds allocated by the Treasurer to alleviate our emergency problem are still not in operation.

When are we going to get those chronic care beds in Windsor? When are we going to begin to ease the hospital crisis that so overwhelms our community when we have vacancy rates of zero per cent? Indeed, in some cases the occupancy rate is more than 100 per cent as people sit and lie in the hallways of our hospitals. When is he going to get down to solving that problem?

Hon. Mr. Norton: The honourable member may not have understood my response to the first question, which I think answers the supplementary part of his second question. That is, before any approvals or consideration can be given to a new chronic facility, whether it requires capital or additional operating approval, I must have the financial approval for the allocation.

Mr. Conway: Admit to the game you play. At least have that much honour.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I happen to have a responsibility to this Legislature and to the people of this province. I cannot expend moneys that I do not have approval to spend.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: In the discussion on domestic workers, the Minister of Labour said there was a provision in Bill 141 relating to domestics and said this party was responsible for holding back—

Mr. Speaker: Order. That is not a question of privilege.

MOTIONS**BARGNESI MINES LTD.**

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that an application for private legislation in the second session of the 32nd Parliament related to Bill Pr34, An Act to revive the Bargnesi Mines Ltd., be considered during the present session without paying further application fees, without publishing further notice of the application and without lodging further declaration proving publication.

Motion agreed to.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Rotenberg and Mr. Kolyn exchange positions in the order of precedence for private members' public business and that the requirement for notice as provided in standing order 64(h) be waived.

Motion agreed to.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Sweeney be appointed a member of the standing committee on social development.

Motion agreed to.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS**MARQUIS VIDEO CORPORATION ACT**

Mr. Cousens moved, seconded by Mr. Runciman, first reading of Bill Pr2, An Act to revive Marquis Video Corporation.

Motion agreed to.

MADAWASKA CLUB, LIMITED ACT

Mr. Cousens moved, on behalf of Mr. J. A. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Runciman, first reading of Bill Pr28, An Act respecting The Madawaska Club, Limited.

Motion agreed to.

**OSHAWA YOUNG WOMEN'S
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION ACT**

Mr. Cureatz moved, seconded by Mrs. Scrivener, first reading of Bill Pr25, An Act respecting the Oshawa Young Women's Christian Association.

Motion agreed to.

LONDON REGIONAL ART GALLERY

Mr. Van Horne moved, seconded by Mr. Riddell, first reading of Bill Pr7, An Act respecting the London Regional Art Gallery.

Motion agreed to.

BARGNESI MINES LIMITED ACT

Mr. Williams moved, seconded by Mr. J. M. Johnson, first reading of Bill Pr35, An Act to revive Bargnesi Mines Limited.

Motion agreed to.

3:20 p.m.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, the business paper indicated we would announce the business for tonight.

The business in the House for tonight is, first, debate on a motion to adopt the third report of the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments. This shows as order 25 in today's Orders and Notices.

Second, we will handle order 29, which is consideration of another report of the standing committee on regulations and other statutory instruments.

We will then debate simultaneously two reports from the standing committee on procedural affairs dealing with agencies, boards and commissions. These are orders 24 and 30 on today's paper. I do not expect that they will come to a vote tonight, but if they do not, they will be adjourned until a later date.

ORDERS OF THE DAY**PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS
AGRICULTURAL FUNDING**

Mr. G. I. Miller moved, seconded by Mr. Riddell, resolution 27:

That, in the opinion of this House, the government recognize that economic pressures continue to force many farmers in this province out of the agriculture industry, and that in order to give our farmers a sense of security in the future of this vital industry, the government take immediate steps to set up short- and long-term financial programs at eight per cent interest rates so that the agriculture industry will remain viable, grow, prosper and compete equitably with agricultural financial assistance programs in other provinces.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a pleasure to come back to the House again and to have the opportunity to speak on behalf of an industry I believe has been neglected by the government for many years.

But, first of all, as the Legislature begins its fall sittings, I would like to congratulate the Premier (Mr. Davis) and wish him well as far as his future is concerned. May he be able to

contribute to the wellbeing of Ontario and Canada in the future.

I would like to point out that agriculture has been hit particularly hard and has not been supported by his government as I feel it should be. Some of the headlines that have come out in the past few months, and as recently as last week in the *Hamilton Spectator*, indicate the seriousness of the concerns.

I would like to put on the record a heading, "Dream Turning to Nightmare: Once Prosperous Farm Family Facing Ruin," which was in the *London Free Press* on April 5, 1984. That particular story was about the farmers in the tobacco industry—and members know very well that this was debated in the House several times during the past session. It points out the serious difficulties that this part of our agriculture industry is in. We have brought to the attention of the government and of the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) the fact that it is being overtaxed and that in Ontario, where the industry means so much, it has been hit the hardest.

As recently as Tuesday, September 29, 1984, the *Hamilton Spectator's* front-page article was entitled, "For Sale: But Who Will Buy as Bottom Falls Out of Rural Land Values?" The article is about a dairy farmer who is 63 years old and would like to sell to some younger people, but there are no buyers.

In 1981 the Ontario Federation of Agriculture emergency task force was headed up by Everett Biggs. The other two members were Del O'Brien and Murray Gaunt, both well-known people in Ontario. They reported back to the Legislature and the minister, but many of the recommendations have still not been put into practice.

I know the government is well aware of the name Del O'Brien, because he has been one of its supporters for many years. I often heard Del O'Brien indicate that agriculture is the industry that makes the economy of Ontario and Canada work. However, it is so neglected and is in such bad condition.

They reported, "Currently, Ontario's only involvement with credit assistance is a limited loan and subsidized rate for tile drainage." A couple of programs have been brought in since then, the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program and the beginning farmer assistance program. That is still just interest assistance.

They said, "All the provinces have some form of credit assistance for farmers, and this raises a demand for similar programs in Ontario." That is really what our resolution is about today.

"The task force is convinced that serious economic problems exist in Ontario agriculture. They are extremely pronounced and most critical in the red meat industry. We are of the opinion that without immediate action by government, part of the red meat industry will very quickly be lost to Ontario and move to other provinces." That is on page 43 of their report of November 1981.

I might bring to the attention of the House an advertisement that was brought to our attention, "Quebec Buys More Beef Business."

"The Quebec government's efforts to attract a bigger slice of national cow-calf and fed cattle production has gained momentum. A new incentive program, to run for six years, was announced in November.

"Funds allocated are \$25 million, and enrolment is open until the end of 1986. Farmers purchasing beef cows are eligible for a three-year interest subsidy of up to \$750 a head for up to 50 head. Maximum total payment is, therefore, \$37,500 for a herd of 50 cows.

"In addition, if the cows are enrolled in a provincial ROP program, they will each be eligible for a grant of \$100, and participating farmers can also get a subsidy payment of \$600 per head for purchasing a maximum of two high quality beef bulls."

That is only part of their program in connection with beef, yet Ontario has stood idly by while beef farmers have gone out of business. The desperation came forth when the farmers from Huron county were going around trying to protect their farms only a few years ago. It was a good indication that trouble was brewing and that the beef industry in Ontario was in trouble. The government has still not seen fit to come to their aid.

Here is another comment from the report of the task force in November 1981. "If significant changes in policy direction are not made, other segments of agriculture which are not able to extract adequate returns from the marketplace will become part of the disintegration process already being experienced by a significant number of farmers." That is found on page 43 of the report.

On page 44 it says: "Action is needed now—without delay and with the full realization that high interest rates are not compatible with agricultural production returns generally and are downright lethal to a large number of farmers. As well, this economic paralysis is being transmitted to those industries which service agriculture." That is true of the farm machinery industry. Only

this past week there were layoffs at Massey-Ferguson in Brantford and the closing down of a meat packing plant, Burns Meats, in Kitchener.

"Band-Aid approaches are no longer acceptable. There must be a dedication and commitment on the part of governments, not only to solving the problems of the moment, but ensuring a sense of security for the future. Government can and must accept this responsibility." That is found on page 46.

3:30 p.m.

Recommendations from that report include the following:

"The province of Ontario should review subsidies and farm assistance programs available in other provinces, particularly in the province of Quebec, with a view to correcting any inequities in the long-term through an interprovincial accord. In the short-term, if considered necessary, Ontario could introduce assistance programs to ensure Ontario farmers are not disadvantaged through parochial policies of other provinces."

As I pointed out, there were a couple of programs implemented. There was the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program and the beginning farmer assistance program, again with interest assistance.

"The province of Ontario should reconsider its position on long-term credit for young and starting farmers. The Province of Ontario Savings Offices were introduced in the early 1920s to provide credit for farmers. They could become the lending arm of the provincial government for young farmers."

We did some research through the library and we found the Province of Ontario Savings Office was created in 1921. The purpose was to assist the agricultural industry; that was what it was set up for. After looking not only at policies in Canada but outside our boundaries, we found the strongest financial bank in Holland is the Agricultural Bank. It supports its agricultural industry with low interest loans.

The former Minister of Agriculture for Canada, Eugene Whelan, who incidentally did so much on behalf of the farming industry, indicated that Japan was supplying its agricultural industry with four per cent money. Again, when we are looking around and trying to compete in the agricultural field, it is an indication that one cannot do it on high-interest money.

For the period 1979 to 1984 there were 771 farms that declared bankruptcy. How many more farmers have just walked off and left without

declaring bankruptcy? That is an unknown quantity. But they have kept steadily increasing from 64 bankruptcies in 1979 to 122 in 1980. In 1981 there were 140 bankruptcies; in 1982 there were 176; in 1983 there were 165; and from January to August 1984 there were 104.

This year could be another disastrous year. In my own particular area, with the tobacco cutback, with the poor crops and with the still-high cost of input, I know there is going to be a lot more farmers facing that difficult decision as winter rolls around.

Employment is another factor in which the agricultural industry has shown a drastic reduction in. It went from 153,000 in September 1983 to 125,000 in September 1984. If we are looking for ways of getting our youth employed and increasing employment generally, agriculture can play a leading and tremendous role in that.

Between 1971 and 1983 the total farm debt in Ontario increased from \$1,293,000,000 to \$5,037,000,000, almost five times. Members can see, with high interest rates, how devastating that is to the industry.

Only as recently as October 3, 1984, a Globe and Mail heading read: "Best of Farmers Carry Debts They Cannot Repay, Study Says." The article says, "Canada's most productive farmers are carrying debts most can never hope to repay, a federal study shows."

Particularly at 12 or 15 per cent, that is still too high. There is not that kind of farm profit in the agricultural industry; there is not that kind of profit in almost any business in Ontario.

As of March 1984, Ontario led the nation in the proportion of Farm Credit Corp. loans in arrears, with payments outstanding in 20 per cent of the loans. That is a very high percentage.

The government's commitment of \$335 million for the whole agricultural industry, or one per cent of the budget expenditures, pales in light of the \$583 million that will be collected by the tobacco tax alone. Again, the province has used that like the goose that laid the golden eggs. If one of these days that goose is no longer around, I do not know what they are going to be collecting taxes from then. It has been a tremendous industry that made that part of Ontario very prosperous.

While Quebec spends \$8,358 per farmer, Ontario spends \$3,578 per farmer. Quebec considers its agricultural industry much more important than does Ontario. The Ontario agricultural industry relies almost entirely on credit provided by the federal government and private

lending institutions and is the only province that does not offer a long-term credit program.

On February 7, 1982, the former Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Food told Bruce county farmers the province would seriously consider setting up its own farm bank if the farm credit problems became chronic and persisted for more than a year. This is exactly what has happened and the situation shows no signs of improvement.

The Ontario farm adjustment assistance program will expire this December. Will this program be renewed and will interest rates be lowered to eight per cent from the current 12 per cent? Why does the minister not announce the extension of this program now in this Legislature, instead of waiting to announce it at the annual meeting of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in November as he usually does?

Only a few months ago the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) stated "interest rates have stabilized." Yet in the span of a few months, the prime rate has increased from 11 per cent to 13.5 per cent and might go even higher before crops are harvested in the fall. The pressure is on the farmers to be able to finance in some areas with only a small crop and in some instances almost a crop failure as far as spring grain was concerned.

The OFA recently pointed out to the minister that the latest Farm Credit Corp. survey shows "the one third of Canadian farmers with high debt loads and low equity in their farming operations produced about half of Canada's food last year." They also point out that the first priority for the success of the agriculture industry is "long-term affordable credit." With these farmers in trouble, we can see what a sad state the industry is in.

Farm operating expenses continue to increase. The latest forecasts from the ministry indicate 1984 farm operating expenses and depreciation charges are to increase five per cent from last year; feed costs, nine per cent; interest on indebtedness, 8.4 per cent to \$547 million; fertilizer prices, 14 per cent; machinery expenses, seven per cent; pesticides, six per cent; and seed expenditures, seven per cent.

Those are all expenditures that every farmer has to deal with. Wheat is at \$3.50 a bushel at the Norfolk Co-operative Co. Ltd. today, compared to 1947 when it was \$2 a bushel, which indicates to us why the farmers are in such difficulties.

At the same time, realized net incomes are projected to be up by 12 per cent from 1981. That is an average of four per cent a year, which does not keep up with the cost of the input side.

Members can clearly see why we brought in a resolution indicating the need for lower interest rates for our farming industry to get our economy going again and to get our manufacturers working. The farmer is the best utilizer of steel, the best utilizer of wood products and fencing. You name it, they utilize it. If the farmer is healthy, the industry is going to be healthy and the province as a whole will be healthy. We would like to see the government support the resolution and come up with an eight per cent interest rate.

I will keep the three to four minutes or whatever I have left to sum up.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, in rising to speak on this resolution, I want to say immediately that we support it. I personally support it and my party supports it with some enthusiasm. I have no doubt the members on the opposite side will support it too, because it is a nice statement of principles and they will not have to take any action on it after it is passed. That in itself means they will be supporting it.

We recognize that nothing, perhaps not even low prices, has clobbered the farmers of this province and of this nation as much as the high interest rates they have had to pay over the past two, three or four years. We also know that adequate financing at reasonable rates has been the main issue in the farm organizations' presentations to both the provincial and federal governments in those same three or four years.

Our party has had a task force of which I was chairman. It toured Ontario last fall, a little less than a year ago. Wherever we went we found the prime concern and problem facing Ontario farmers was their inability to pay the high interest rates and their inability to get necessary funding at reasonable interest rates to carry on their operations.

Before he resigned just over two years ago, the former agricultural critic for this party constantly made an issue of high interest rates in this House. He demanded that the government take some action to remedy this situation for the farmers. Of course, none was taken.

I believe the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller) is sincere in bringing in this resolution, but I also want to say that it has been the Liberal party nationally that has the direct responsibility and blame for the interest rates being where they were over the past four or five years.

It is also true that the member's own agricultural critic, the member for Huron-Middlesex

(Mr. Riddell), defended high interest rates in this House two or three years ago. If anyone doubts me on that, I ask him to read pages 4135 to 4141 from Hansard of October 8, 1982.

Not only did the federal government refuse to intervene on those high interest rates, but also it kept the interest rates of the Farm Credit Corp. high. It did not provide the FCC with sufficient funds to meet the demands of the farmers. After all the pressure that had been brought to bear, even by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, to pass Bill 653, which would have given the farmers some protection against foreclosure, the government never got around to enacting that legislation before it was defeated in the election this past summer.

The Liberals and the Liberal government are guilty on every count for the financial difficulties the farmers find themselves in at present.

It should be said that the Progressive Conservative government across the way here refused to make any intervention to the federal government, even the Liberal federal government, to lower those interest rates. Accordingly, pious statements were made, but it never actually asked the federal government to intervene and lower those interest rates, which we know went up as high as 20 per cent, 22 per cent and perhaps even 24 per cent.

We were told by the apologists among the Liberals and Progressive Conservatives that we need high interest rates to fight inflation. Inflation has come down; it has come down very dramatically. While it has come down this year to about four per cent, interest rates have gone up by two per cent. So much for the theory that one needs those high interest rates to fight inflation.

We are told we need high interest rates to keep our money from going out of the country. I think anybody who looked at it at all would know governments can put controls on exports of money. Governments, including the US government, have done it; so that does not stand up either.

Governments say, "If we do not have high interest rates, our dollar value will fall." We have kept our interest rates up, and look where our dollar value is now compared to that of the United States. If it did fall, we probably would be in a much better position than we are at present, because we would be able to get more into the export market and sell our goods, including our agricultural goods.

All those arguments are simply phoney. They are invalid. There is no substance to them. The sensible answer to the high interest rates is for the

new federal government to intervene to bring those interest rates down. They would not even have to have new legislation. They have power to order those interest rates to be reduced. That is what we need in society. That is the real answer, rather than the resolution we have here.

Do members know that for every one per cent reduction in interest rates, if it were applied across the board at the given time, the farmers would save some \$30 million to \$40 million? If we dropped the interest rate in this nation to eight per cent, and that is plenty high enough when the inflation rate is only 4.5 per cent or even five per cent, the farmers in this province would save somewhere between \$150 million and \$200 million in interest rates and it would not cost the government anything.

When we are talking about an interest subsidy program, it does not matter how it is done, it is going to cost the government and the taxpayers of the province. I support it because of the desperate situation the farmers are in. I support this resolution and so does my party, but I suggest it is very much a second-best method.

The situation has got much worse—I think the member for Haldimand-Norfolk made this point—not just in the last two years but in the last year and in the last six months. The brief that was submitted to the Ontario cabinet this year by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, as well as to the opposition parties, points out the very desperate situation and provides a number of recommendations which in effect mean more capital for them at lower interest rates. It is what they desperately need.

Members are aware, and it has been mentioned, of the bankruptcies and farm failures, the number of which this year across this nation, even in this province, is certainly going to surpass that of any previous year.

The member for Haldimand-Norfolk spoke about the drop in purchases of farm equipment, which does not just affect the farmers. It has been absolutely dramatic. The figures I have show that 31,000 tractors were bought in 1979 in Canada; that number is down now to 18,000. The number of combines bought in 1979 was 8,000; it is down to 4,000 in 1983.

There was a news report just within the past few days saying the number of combines purchased so far this year is down by something like 20 per cent and even the number of tractor purchases is down. That is not because farmers do not need them. No, they need new equipment. It is because they do not have the money to buy them. With the high interest rates we have at

present, they simply cannot afford to borrow the money. They cannot even meet the capital payments they are now required to meet.

In this party we think the answer is to lower interest rates. That way it does not cost the taxpayers. Sure, those who have investments will not get as much on their investments, but I suggest that is better than having the farmers in our society going out of business by the dozens and by the hundreds because they cannot get their operating capital at reasonable interest rates.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. McLean: Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on the resolution before this House put forward by the member for Haldimand-Norfolk.

The honourable member's resolution asks that the government recognize that continuing economic pressures are facing Ontario farmers. It also suggests this government should provide assistance in support of Ontario's food producers. There can be no quarrel with that. However, I take exception to the way this sentiment is worded.

The resolution makes it appear that this is a brand-new concept. The member's proposed program of response is presented as if it would be the first step ever taken by this government in support of agriculture. He of all people, coming from a riding with a healthy proportion of family farms, should realize the government has made considerable efforts over the years to support these independent entrepreneurs.

The member recommends setting up an across-the-board program that would, in his estimation, benefit Ontario's agriculture and food industry. We as a government recognize its importance. Indeed, our support for agriculture is predicated on a deeply held belief in the social and economic institution of the family farm. The philosophy of this government, which has been translated into a range of concrete programs, has been to support that enterprise, but in a very pragmatic and considered manner rather than just by tossing tax dollars to the wind and letting them fall where they may. Ontario is committed to helping farmers help themselves, and we gear our assistance to those who are truly in need.

For example, let us look for a moment at the issue of credit. For decades a major source of long-term credit for farmers has been the federal government through its Farm Credit Corp. The federal level has the greater financial resources needed to play this important role and has been the main lender since 1959. Before that there was the Canadian Farm Loan Board, which was established under an act passed in 1929.

It has been the policy of Ontario that the federal level will provide the long-term credit and that Ontario will provide additional assistance as needed, as in the case of the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program. The provinces were asked in the late 1960s to leave long-term agricultural credit to the federal government. We agreed and continue to do so. This leaves the province more flexibility to introduce, alter and adapt existing programs in response to changing conditions simply because we cannot have such large sums of money tied up for such long periods of time.

The member calls for credit at eight per cent. That completely overlooks significant efforts on the part of this government in these areas. For example, Ontario's beginning farmer assistance program effectively reduces interest rates by five percentage points to a maximum of eight per cent. This is a \$135-million program, and over the course of five years we expect it to assist about 5,000 people and help them fulfil the dreams they have had to become full-time farmers. The importance of this effort was underscored by the increase of \$9 million given to this program this year in the provincial budget. Thus far, close to 1,000 applications have been approved under this program.

Interest-rate reduction is the focus of another government initiative. The Ontario farm adjustment assistance program was established to help farmers who were battling high interest rates get over a temporary financial impasse. In its first year the interest-reduction feature of this plan was the aspect most widely employed. This can reduce interest rates to 12 per cent, a figure recommended by a task force that included the president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. But in the last two years, farmers taking part in this program have concentrated primarily on the provincial guarantees on operating lines of credit.

Interest rates of eight per cent also apply to loans farmers can obtain through provincial drainage programs. In total, the government expects to invest \$41.7 million this fiscal year in municipal and individual drainage projects. These short-term and medium-term financial assistance programs are significant and continuing benefits to Ontario's food producers. They work precisely because they have been carefully designed to put government financial support in the hands of those who need it most.

According to the member's resolution, one of the things this proposal is supposed to do is to allow agriculture "to compete equitably with

agricultural financial assistance programs in other provinces." I submit that this is precisely what we do not want to do: compete with other provinces and other treasuries. It is time we began to perform as a nation in agriculture. Trying to ensure that we compete more effectively with other provinces has only one result. If we were to put a program in place that was seen to give this province an advantage over some other, then the other would counter with a program of its own.

It is time all the provinces realized they cannot win. Ultimately their food producers and consumers cannot win at this kind of agricultural chess game. We can achieve equitable treatment by treating all the players equally, setting up programs that support agriculture in the long term and that are purely national in scope and available to all and favouring none.

This is what the government is trying to do through its support and promotion of national programs such as tripartite stabilization, which the new federal government has promised to institute by the end of this year. We believe in the national program. We also believe in the strength of the federal government's commitment to this vital course of action. But our red meat producers have been disappointed before by delays in implementing this crucial program.

For this reason, the Minister of Agriculture and Food has given this government's pledge to the farming community: There will be stabilization in Ontario as of January 1, 1985. This will either take the form of the national three-way partnership or, if necessary, a provincial bipartite program will come into being in the new year. This standby plan will provide our food producers with the benefits of stabilization until such time as the national plan comes into force.

Along the same lines, we endorse a truly national agribond program as a source of lower-cost, long-term credit for Ontario farmers and those across Canada as well. Having programs such as these in place will give us the opportunity as a nation to dismantle the ad hoc fragmented tissue of provincial government. Replacing the patchwork with equitable national programs will free us to compete in the world's agricultural marketplace with other nations and not with each other.

The agribond program is under discussion at the federal and provincial levels. In brief, agribonds will allow for a pool of funds to be channelled into agriculture at lower than market interest rates. This government's agribond proposal would be cost-efficient. With the co-

operation and participation of the federal government, a national agribond program will mean a substantial reduction to farmers in the cost of borrowing long-term money.

This is one of the several approaches to the issue of agricultural credit that will be the subject of a special federal-provincial meeting of agriculture ministers on November 8 and 9 in Toronto. This will take a long, hard look at practical solutions to this concern.

The government has already provided \$335 million a year in support of agriculture through the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, plus many millions of dollars through other ministries and programs. These include \$10 million in Board of Industrial Leadership and Development grants, \$1.2 million from the Ministry of Energy for agricultural energy projects and the greenhouse initiative program and \$600,000 from the Ministry of Northern Affairs for northern agricultural programs.

The words of the member's resolution sound good. The sentiments expressed are easy to say. But all this talk about a proposed loan program ignores the bottom line. The member fails to offer us any clues as to exactly where this money is coming from.

4 p.m.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, before I get into the meat of my remarks, I want to say the farmers of Ontario have never taken the New Democratic Party seriously because they know the allegations just made by the member for Welland-Thorold (Mr. Swart) about my stand on interest rates as they affect farmers are ludicrous and completely false.

The rural communities throughout Ontario know that no one in this Legislature has spoken out for farmers more than I have. Oh, how the member for Welland-Thorold would like to have the same trust and respect.

Here we are again early in the fall session of what could conceivably be the last session of the 32nd Parliament, threshing old straw, trying to get those few kernels of wheat—

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I believe the statement that my remarks were false is unparliamentary and should be withdrawn.

Mr. Riddell: If the member would listen to my remarks, I said the reason the farmers of Ontario do not take the member seriously is they know the allegations just made are ludicrous and completely false. If he wants to take the issue up with the farmers, that is fine. Let us not waste the time of the House doing it here. Let me continue.

Mr. Swart: Mr. Speaker, again on the point of order, a statement was not made by the farmers, it was made by the member for Huron-Middlesex in this House and therefore is unparliamentary. He is not quoting; he is making a statement on his own.

The Deputy Speaker: I appreciate the point of order raised by the honourable member; however, he is referring to others and not making the allegations you have said are false, as I have heard the debate. We will monitor the rest of the debate so that we do not flirt with and trip over allegations we know are against the standing orders.

Mr. Riddell: As I said, here we are again threshing over old straw, trying to get those few kernels of wheat that could make the difference between the sustained livelihood of the farmers and their suppliers and continuing hardship and eventual bankruptcy.

In accordance with the adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," we in the Liberal Party are once again trying to convince the Minister of Agriculture and Food and his colleagues that all is certainly not well on the farm front and extended public support for agriculture is needed if the consumers of Ontario want a continuation of high-quality food at reasonable prices.

Surely the minister and his cabinet colleagues have become increasingly aware that a significant number of family farms are facing economic disaster. Current short-term economic assistance, such as the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program, small business development bonds and interest subsidies for Farm Credit Corp. mortgages, has done little to change the dire economic straits in which 15 per cent of our producers find themselves. These are not my words, but the words of farm organizations such as the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture.

According to a recent survey done by the Farm Credit Corp., Canada's most productive farmers are carrying debts most can never hope to repay. The survey shows the one third of Canadian farmers with high debt and low equity in their farms accounted for about half the nation's food production last year. It also shows that about one per cent of all Canadian farmers have debts greater than the value of their farms and cannot hope to survive.

The findings certainly contradict the prevailing view in the Ministry of Agriculture and Food that those who are going out of business or who are in serious difficulty tend to be poor managers

and inefficient farmers. The findings do agree with organizations such as the Canadian Federation of Agriculture which have lobbied for low-interest lending programs to help farmers adjust their debt load.

The federation has maintained it is young families that have begun farming in the past five or six years that are in serious financial difficulty because of high interest rates and low commodity prices. Even the Monthly Crop and Livestock Report put out by the Ministry of Agriculture and Food shows that realized net income of Ontario farm operators has increased an average of only three per cent a year during the past four years. Honourable members should compare this to the projected increases in the 1984 farm operating expenses and depreciation charges of five per cent from 1983.

To further point out to the minister the hardships of the farmers, I would like to quote other projected increases in the farmers' input costs. Higher feed costs are expected to increase total commercial feed expenditures by nine per cent from last year. The interest on indebtedness is expected to increase 8.4 per cent from last year, primarily due to the result of higher interest rates, not total debt outstanding.

A projected increase of four per cent in wages to labour is based on expected increases in wage rates since 1983. Both fertilizer prices and usage are expected to be higher in 1984 than last year, resulting in a projected increase of 14 per cent in total fertilizer expenses.

Machinery expenses are projected to increase seven per cent, with higher fuel costs and an increase in frequency of repairs contributing to this increase. Ontario farmers are expected to spend six per cent more on pesticides in 1984 than they did last year. Seed expenditures are projected to increase seven per cent due to higher costs and changes in seeded areas.

It is important to note that these are one-year increases in expenditures compared to a 12 per cent increase in realized net farm income over the last four years, an average of three per cent a year. Is it any wonder that so much farm land is up for sale, but there are no buyers? Is it any wonder that farm suppliers such as the United Co-operatives of Ontario and the farm machinery companies are in trouble? Is it any wonder that merchants in rural Ontario towns, who rely on the farm family business, are hanging closure sale signs in their store windows? The farm crisis is affecting many businesses in rural Ontario.

If my memory serves me correctly, the Minister of Agriculture and Food, in one of his

speeches not long ago, indicated that the farm financial crisis was over. One would hope that was the case, but I am sorry to say the crisis has not disappeared. The president of the Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario said just recently: "We are becoming more and more aware that the pinch is a lot harder and more widespread than we had first thought. It is not over at all."

Other contacts have said the worst is about to begin, and government and banks are kidding themselves if they think the farming industry is over the hump. We in the Liberal Party should not have to keep reminding the minister that the farming industry in this province is too vital to ignore. They are not only my words when I say the agricultural industry in this province has been badly neglected by the Ontario Conservative government.

I refer to a publication entitled *Farm Credit in the Canadian Financial System*, and I refer to a statement in that publication as follows:

"Ontario agriculture relies almost entirely on credit provided by the federal government and private lending institutions, and Ontario is the only province that does not offer a long-term credit program. The credit programs which it has offered over the years have normally been government guaranteed loans aimed at assisting a particular sector."

Every other province offers long-term credit at very affordable interest rates—thus the reason my colleague the member for Haldimand-Norfolk has introduced this resolution asking that the Ontario government "take immediate steps to set up short- and long-term financial programs at eight per cent interest rates so that the agricultural industry in this province will remain viable, grow, prosper and compete equitably" with the agricultural industry in the other provinces.

The Ontario Liberal Party has and will continue to develop agricultural policies that will help the agricultural industry of this province to regain its viability and give it an opportunity to compete equitably with the agricultural financial assistance programs in the other provinces and in other countries.

We have included in our policy low-interest, long- and short-term credit targeted to the farmers who most need it but who can also meet their obligations. We have taken into consideration the fact that the most productive farmers are carrying the most debt and that it is necessary to target low-interest lending programs. Simply lending more money at low interest to farmers who cannot hope to repay does not solve the

problem and may even place them in worse circumstances.

We in this party have been aware for some time that the most productive farmers are the ones who are in the most serious difficulty as they are the farmers who made heavy investments and built up enterprises fairly recently. They are finding now that they are in trouble due to high interest rates. Many will have to leave unless they can get loans at reduced rates, whether from the federal government or the provincial government.

4:10 p.m.

As the minister knows, the Farm Credit Corp. loan is of little value to the farmers due to the relatively high interest rates, and although the minister has endeavoured to cushion the blow of high interest rates through subsidizing the Farm Credit Corp. rates five percentage points down to 12 per cent. The fact of the matter is the most productive farmers who are carrying the most debt cannot hope to stay in business at 12 per cent interest. Even the Ontario beginning farmer assistance program is based on subsidized interest rates and can hardly be considered long-term credit, since the term for that program is five years.

Mr. Speaker, I am wondering if the time for the points of order and privilege the member raised was taken into consideration. Have I some more time?

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): No, that is all part of your time. The honourable member has now exhausted—

Mr. Riddell: It should not be.

The Acting Speaker: That is the way it works. We are as consistent with the member as we are with all.

Mr. Riddell: May I just finish the last few words?

The Acting Speaker: Yes.

Mr. Riddell: The agricultural industry in this country is truly facing a crisis, compounded this year by lower commodity prices. Unfortunately, this province seems to be doing less than every other province to shore up this most important industry. I become very annoyed when I reflect upon a 41-year-old government that has squandered billions of dollars on advertising, excess hydro capacity, buying shares in an oil company, land banking, and extending privileges to a few while denying the kind of aid that farmers need.

The Acting Speaker: I thank the member. I was willing to allow a few words, but the member has another speech.

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of this resolution. As my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold said at the outset, it is a solution that we support not only as individuals but also as a party, although it is a second-best solution and not the real solution we should be seeking. The real solution, obviously, is the solution at the federal level of an overall reduction of interest rates.

I would hope that as a result of the debate this afternoon and as a result of a number of other debates and questions that will obviously go on during this fall session and on into the winter, the government will no longer have the excuse of another party in power in Ottawa and will sit down and seriously put pressure on its colleagues in the new Mulroney administration to start dealing realistically and in an upfront way with the very serious economic and social problems that high interest rates in this country are causing, especially when one takes into consideration, as my colleague has mentioned, that interest rates are currently running nine per cent to 10 per cent above the rate of inflation.

We all know the arguments that were made in the past by the party across the way that interest rates had to remain three per cent to four per cent above the inflation rate. If they were valid then, they are as valid today, and we should stop playing games and trying to have it both ways.

At any rate, back to the specifics of the resolution. We support this resolution because until we get some action at the federal level, the farming community in this province is in very serious trouble. I think my colleagues in the Liberal Party will admit it although the member for Huron-Middlesex may not admit it. Both of the opposition parties have been saying for some considerable length of time that the agricultural community in this province is in a very serious state of crisis, and has been and will continue to be until this province, unilaterally, takes action to deal with the specifics and the financial problems that are out there. The bulk of those financial problems are related, as this resolution indicates, to the question of interest rates and therefore the cost of running a farm operation.

We have heard from the government side far too often that the farmers who are in trouble are inefficient, bad managers. We now have a very clear study from the federal government, the Farm Credit Corp., which clearly shows that excuse is not the case at all; that the farmers in this province and right across the country who are carrying the largest debt burdens, the farmers who are carrying debts they likely can never

repay in the present situation, are in fact the most productive farmers in this country and are the farmers who are producing slightly over half the food crops in Canada.

If that does not reflect a crisis, we will certainly have a crisis if those farmers who are producing half our food production go under. It will be a crisis this government will not be able to deny or avoid as the prices for imports to replace those food crops skyrocket and as the consumers right across this province, upon whom this government depends for its votes, end its reign in this province.

It is also very clear that the issues being debated here today are not just issues that are being put by politicians and by bureaucrats doing studies in Ottawa. A number of the members who have spoken today have made reference to the presentations that were made to the Premier (Mr. Davis) and the cabinet by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. Their concerns and the problems they set out are identical to the problems that are being discussed here today, and the solutions generally follow the same lines.

I refer again to comments my colleague the member for Welland-Thorold made in his remarks earlier about the agriculture task force of this caucus that he chaired, which toured the province last fall and into January and February. Unfortunately, I was not able to attend all the hearings of that task force with my colleague, but I did attend several in the Niagara Peninsula and in the southwest.

In almost every case, the recommendations we have made in this task force report parallel or meet exactly the concerns and the recommendations that exist here in the Ontario Federation of Agriculture presentation to the cabinet. We specifically recommended in this task force report that, in the case of short-term loan assistance, changes be made to the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program; part B should be revised to provide qualifying farmers with subsidies of interest rates above the eight per cent level instead of the current 12 per cent.

This clearly falls in line with what the member for Haldimand-Norfolk has presented here in his resolution, and we support it. The government should be listening very seriously and very clearly to what is a united opposition on this issue, an opposition that, although it does not quite hold 50 per cent of the seats in this House, represents substantially over 50 per cent of the population of this province.

Instead of having farm assistance programs such as we currently have, in which OFAAP,

because of its nature, ends up paying \$14.3 million to the banks instead of in assistance to the farmers, we should get on with the job of sitting down with the agricultural community and carefully working out our farm assistance programs so that they provide assistance directly to the farmers and not to the banks because the assistance did not work and the farmer collapsed financially anyway.

4:20 p.m.

We have a situation that is desperate. My colleague referred earlier in his comments to the sales of farm machinery in this country, so I speak not only to the members of the government party who are the representatives of agricultural communities in this province but also to those such as the member for Brantford (Mr. Gillies), who is not here this afternoon, who represent communities that depend very largely for their livelihood on the economic health and wellbeing of the family farm in Ontario. We have seen the devastation that has fallen on communities such as Brantford, Hamilton and many others across this country because of the collapse in sales of farm machinery and the subsequent closures and layoffs that result in the farm machinery industry.

It is not just a question of protecting and assisting farmers. I think it was the member for Haldimand-Norfolk who made this point in his original comments. It is a question of supporting the overall health of the Canadian and Ontario economies that we are talking about this afternoon. The agricultural industry and the family farm are the very basis of the resources on which the overall economy is built and is dependent. For us to leave the agricultural sector in Ontario and the most productive segment of that sector in crisis without taking effective and decisive action is insane.

Mr. Sheppard: Mr. Speaker, we have before us a resolution from the member for Haldimand-Norfolk. It suggests that the government set up short- and long-term financial programs at eight per cent interest rates to support agriculture.

There is much discussion in this chamber on the subject of agriculture, as there should be. It is a major industry, a major employer in the province, especially when we consider jobs in relation to industry, and a major source of income. However, using the term "agriculture" can make it sound like a homogeneous enterprise, a big business. What is often overlooked is that it is not one big business. Instead, it is more than 82,000 small businesses, with all the

variations that suggests in management and in financial and market prospects.

These thousands of small businesses are, for the most part, family-run. The family farm has been the heart of Ontario's food production since the first settlers cleared the land. It is a stabilizing force and a significant contributor to the quality of life Ontario's rural citizens enjoy.

I will leave it to others to comment on the specifics of the member's proposals. For my part, I would like to set the record straight and outline some examples of the leadership role this government has played in implementing measures to support Ontario's farm people.

In all our positive actions, the government's approach is to help people help themselves, not setting up programs just for the sake of setting up programs, but targeting the assistance to see that it gets to the people who need it most.

While we accept that one farm bankruptcy is one too many, we also recognize that we cannot guarantee that no farmer will ever go bankrupt again. However, I must point out that there has been some improvement in this area.

Overall figures for farm bankruptcies in Ontario were lower in 1983 than in 1982, and if current trends continue for the rest of the year, they will likely wind up at about the same rate as in 1983.

This is in the face of dramatic increases in other parts of Canada, even in those jurisdictions that we too often hear cited as shining examples of the levels of assistance Ontario should be providing. In fact, the same provinces that allegedly have higher subsidy levels also have higher rates of bankruptcies.

Farms are small businesses, facing the same pressures as all small businesses plus some others that are unique. I cannot recall the last time I heard of a clothing store that was in financial trouble because there had not been enough rain.

Not only are Ontario farm bankruptcies lower proportionally than in other provinces, but they are also lower than the failure rate for small businesses. The overall rate of small business bankruptcies is five times higher than that of farms.

The member's resolution also implies that farm bankruptcies are widespread. This simply is not the case. In the first eight months of this year, there were 104 in Ontario. I am in no way glossing over the personal hardship or minimizing the feelings of the people involved. I must point out, however, there are some 82,000 farms in this province and the average equity in these farms is 85 per cent.

This government knows there are some people in difficulty. As I said earlier, that is why our assistance programs are aimed specifically at the people who need the help. We do not just fire off government money in all directions and say, "Here, take it whether you need it or not." The government once again recognized the needs and importance of our agricultural sector when it increased the share of the provincial budget to the Ministry of Agriculture and Food by 16.3 per cent, setting the ministry's current budget at \$335 million.

Where will this money go? It will go to the type of targeted assistance programs I mentioned earlier. One of the minister's major programs has committed \$135 million to helping people establish themselves as full-time farmers. This worthy program was enriched by a further \$9 million for this fiscal year as part of the budget increases. More than 1,000 applicants have been approved thus far for beginning farmer assistance. The budget also meant more money for farm tax reduction. It is anticipated this year's rebate to our food producers will amount to close to \$90 million.

Another example of helping people to help themselves is the broad range of initiatives announced recently to boost the red meat industry and stimulate improved productivity. The challenges this industry face have been well documented. A committee of industry people and staff of the Ministry of Agriculture and Food has responded with a blueprint that will inject \$62.5 million into improving the long-term prospects for beef and sheep producers. I refer to the red meat plan.

These steps include a \$1-million research fund, \$6.3 million a year to increase the efficiency of the cow-calf sector and a fund of \$2.4 million a year to encourage adoption of modern management techniques and new technology in stocker and slaughter cattle feeding development. The red meat program also involves adding field staff to conduct education programs with producers to improve levels of profitability and business management. In addition, the program will invest \$1.1 million annually to bolster and expand the sheep industry.

This government followed up this announcement with another targeted program, AgriNorth. This is aimed at stimulating agriculture in northern Ontario through a variety of measures: adapting technology to northern farming conditions, land drainage programs, grain storage and handling, marketing and forage production.

Since this program was announced last summer, 249 projects have been approved. They represent an investment by this government of more than half a billion dollars.

This government's assistance efforts are not only aimed at expanding agriculture in this province and bringing in new people, vital as these activities are, but our programs also protect the interests of those already involved in producing this province's food. For example, financial protection programs ensure that producers are not left in the lurch by ensuing financial problems of those who buy their products. The members of this House know all too well the dislocation and financial hardship that have resulted from the fortunately rare occasions when this has occurred.

One reason this is such a rare occurrence is the existence of financial protection programs. These have a long history, going back about 15 years to the establishment of the milk fund. Subsequently, plans have been set up for beef producers and for those who grow vegetables for processing. There is a similar plan about to be implemented for corn and soybean producers, and the Minister of Agriculture and Food is actively encouraging producers of other commodities to come under this protection.

4:30 p.m.

One of our main programs of financial assistance, the Ontario farm adjustment assistance program, has benefited literally thousands of farmers in the province. Again, this is targeted assistance, aimed directly at those facing financial uncertainty caused by high interest rates or inability to obtain operating capital.

This government has also committed \$25 million to help preserve the land base on which the food producers depend through our soil conservation environmental protection program. The government also announced last month an expansion of this program. This will see 14 specialists in soil conservation and soil and crop management forming a special advisory service for farmers. They will concentrate their efforts in Ontario's most erosion-prone areas.

We also expect to invest \$41.7 million this fiscal year in drainage programs to make farm land more productive. The Board of Industrial Leadership and Development initiative has a large agriculture component dealing with high-technology food processing and lengthening the marketing season for Ontario producers through improved storage and packing systems.

Ontario's investment in agricultural research is the highest of any province, \$30 million a year.

The return on this investment would gladden the heart of any investor. Our estimates indicate that every dollar we invest in agricultural research pays \$40 back.

Those are just some of the directions this government has pursued and continues to pursue in order, in the words of the member's resolution, "to give our farmers a sense of security in the future of this vital industry," not to mention the availability of the onsite advice and assistance through our network of local agriculture representatives or our successful efforts to help producers market their goods at home and abroad.

I have not even touched on some of the actions this government is currently taking that will benefit the food producers both immediately and far into the future.

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support my colleague the member for Haldimand-Norfolk in asking for eight per cent financing for the farmers of Ontario.

The member for Simcoe East (Mr. McLean) mentioned that the government had given support to farmers in the past. I agree they have in the past but that was a long time ago. I can remember when I got my start in farming through the junior farmer loan from this government, which supplied low interest rate money over 30 years. That is the type of financing we need today. We need long-term, low-interest-rate financing. It is needed today just as badly as at any time I can remember in agriculture.

The member for Simcoe East also mentioned that we do not want to make programs better than programs in other provinces. The farmers in Ontario are not asking for better programs; they are asking for programs that are at least equal to the programs of other provinces.

Mr. McClellan: Why can't we be better?

Mr. McKessock: If we could be better, that would be fine, but at least equal to.

We do need and want eight per cent money just for a five-year term but for a term that will be long enough to add some stability to our agricultural industry in Ontario.

I congratulate the member for bringing this forward. I hope the members of the third party and the government will take this resolution seriously and that they will not only take it seriously and vote for it this afternoon, but will also come in with programs before this session is over that will provide the financing we are looking for and, more important, the financing that the farmers in Ontario are looking for to give

them that stability to allow them to remain in agriculture now and in the future.

Mr. G. I. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the way my friends took part in the debate. I know they are all interested in the agriculture industry. It kind of came back home to me that we are not living in a garden of Eden. The way it is seen on that side of the House is not the way I see it in my riding of Haldimand-Norfolk where the farmers are having difficulty surviving.

I will give an example for the government's digestion. There is a farm for sale and they are asking \$150,000 for it. It has 100 acres of land with a house and a barn on it. There are no buyers. A young person cannot afford to buy it because he cannot make the income off that farm to make the payments.

If agriculture is so good under the direction of this government, then I am representing the wrong people. I do not believe it and I do not think the people out there are going to believe it. The government is going to have to answer for it if this is one of the election issues. If everything were running so well, Massey-Ferguson would be running full blast and everybody would be happy. That is not the case.

What we have discussed today is that, in real terms, our agriculture industry is the engine that makes the economy tick. If we do not recognize that, then we are all in trouble. The members on this side of the House recognize that it does play a key role, and I want to make sure our young people have an opportunity to get their hands on it and have a chance to own it and make a living in Ontario.

EARLY RETIREMENT

Mr. Di Santo moved, seconded by Mr. McClellan, resolution 33:

That, pending expansion and enrichment of the Canada pension plan to provide adequate early retirement pensions to older workers, Ontario should establish an early retirement fund to enable voluntary early retirement for two categories of older workers, those who work in heavy labour occupations and those whose employers agree to hire younger workers to replace workers retiring before age 65. This fund would pay benefits equal to 50 per cent of the average industrial wage and would be funded by a payroll tax. This tax would be paid by employers and would have no ceiling on earnings subject to tax, but would exempt firms established less than five years, those with a high proportion of younger employees and those with

company pension provisions enabling early retirement with full benefits.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, today I am urging this Legislature to make voluntary early retirement a viable option for many of the more than 200,000 men and women aged 60 to 65 who are employed in Ontario.

I want to stress that, for the employee, early retirement should in every case be entirely voluntary. No one who wishes to go on working or who wishes to continue at work for financial reasons should be compelled to take early retirement.

Roughly 60 per cent of Ontario's workers depend solely on public pension benefits and individual savings for retirement income. To make early retirement an effective option in Canada, the Canada pension plan will have to be modified. In the meantime, however, Ontario can and must take the initiative for interim pension reforms.

I must insist that it can be done. There is no jurisdictional obstacle, as some would have us believe, to the Ontario government's acting immediately to improve pension provisions. Opponents of reform have hidden behind this jurisdictional curtain long enough. The fact is that constitutionally Ontario does have the power, if not the obligation, to make the improvements I am proposing.

Section 94A of the Canada Act provides as follows: "The Parliament of Canada may make laws in relation to old age pensions and supplementary benefits, including survivors, and disability benefits irrespective of age, but no such law shall affect the operation of any law present or future of a provincial legislature in relation to any such matter." One need not be a lawyer to see that this text pulls the jurisdictional curtain away from those who hide behind it.

Early retirement is already an option in many other countries. In France, normal state pensionable age is 60. In Italy, it is 60 for men and 55 for women. In addition, Denmark, Belgium, Germany and Greece all have early retirement schemes. When I compare our pension provisions with those of other countries that have ventured to lead in this area, I wonder by what right this government flatters itself with the title "progressive."

4:40 p.m.

My resolution establishes an early retirement fund that would pay out a benefit level of 50 per cent of the average industrial composite wage, or about \$10,500 a year. This is higher than is guaranteed under the guaranteed income supple-

ment, old age security or the guaranteed annual income system, and for workers earning at the average industrial composite level, it is higher than the average private pension plan benefit of 40 per cent of pre-retirement earnings.

The early retirement fund would be financed entirely by a payroll tax paid by employers. This is the most logical and direct approach. Employers in Ontario must take greater responsibility for the post-retirement wellbeing of their employees. There are too many who look upon early retirement as a form of charity or as a privilege. This is not how the workers who give their sweat and toil in many years of service to their employer look upon it. To them it is a right, something they deserve in return for the investment of their labour in the service of their employer.

The payroll tax would have no ceiling on earnings subject to tax and would exempt firms established five or fewer years ago and firms that have a relatively high proportion of young workers. It would further exempt employers that provide full early retirement benefits.

How much will the early retirement fund cost? That will depend on the take-up. A one per cent payroll tax would generate a fund of more than \$500 million. Also, roughly 40 per cent of the full-time work force in Ontario is covered by private pension plans. About 13 per cent or 11,000 of these private pension plan members belong to plans that permit early retirement at full pension. Therefore, the cost per worker would range between \$4,500 and \$10,500 annually, depending on his or her pension plan. A worker at the average industrial composite wage level with a standard 40 per cent company pension would need a top-up, whereas someone with no company pension would need the full \$10,500 to reach the guaranteed level.

Because private pension plans normally reduce pension benefits by about two per cent per year where early retirement is taken, a worker aged 60 would be getting 30 per cent of pre-retirement earnings or \$6,000 per year. He or she would therefore require a top-up of about \$4,500 per year to reach the guaranteed level. These costs would be reduced when the worker reaches age 65 and becomes eligible for OAS and Canada pension plan benefits.

In addition to the early retirement fund, Ontario would provide the same benefits, such as the Ontario health insurance plan and property tax grants, to the early retirement group as are currently provided to those aged 65 and over.

The early retirement fund would expire as soon as early retirement reform is achieved under the CPP. The dynamics of federal-provincial jurisdiction are especially relevant as regard such reform. The new government in Ottawa has preached a new era of co-operation between the federal and provincial governments and the time is ripe to put these words of co-operation to the test.

Two categories of workers would be eligible for the early retirement fund benefits. In the first category are those workers aged 60 and over who are employed in heavy labour, such as construction, manual labour and mining. In the second category are those workers aged 60 and over whose employers agree to hire younger workers to replace workers retiring before age 65.

Many of Ontario's older workers are in heavy labour occupations and would be delighted to retire before age 65 if only their post-retirement incomes were adequate. In Belgium, early retirement at age 60 is available for those who have been engaged in "heavy, dangerous or unhealthy work." In Greece, workers can take early retirement at age 60 if they have been employed in heavy or unhealthy work environments.

No doubt all members know people who are in this group, either as friends or as constituents. They are people who have worked hard with their bodies and have been subject to greater occupational risks than most workers. These people have contributed to the building of Ontario. They have paid their fair share and more. They deserve the right, if they so choose, to retire at 60 years of age with the guarantee of a decent income.

Earlier this week, in one of the most moving and emotional moments I have witnessed in my nine years in this House, the Premier (Mr. Davis) announced his decision to retire. The Premier has worked hard for the people of this province for many years, and he well deserves the chance to begin a new chapter in his life without the burden of his responsibilities as Premier. As I thought about this later, it occurred to me that what my resolution is all about is to allow other people to do what the Premier is doing.

The other category of workers that would be eligible for benefits from the proposed early retirement fund is those aged 60 and over whose employers agree to hire younger workers to replace workers retiring before the age of 65. More and more, the issue of pension reform and youth unemployment are recognized as being connected. When we look at the job opportunities for young people, we are confronted with the fact that provisions for retirement, for making

more room in the work force, are inadequate and inflexible. Early retirement will create jobs, and many of those jobs will be taken by youth.

Although there was a slight decrease in the unemployment rate for young Ontarians last summer, more than 150,000 men and women between the ages of 15 and 24 are out of work in Ontario. People in this category find it especially difficult to find work. Because they have low seniority, they are affected by both halves of the last-hired, first-fired pattern.

The Ontario government has committed itself to assisting people in this group to find suitable employment. By implementing my proposal for an early retirement fund, which would open up a significant number of job opportunities for the young people of this province, the government would be actively fulfilling its commitment to Ontario's youth as well as to its older people.

In France, benefits amounting to 65 per cent of gross earnings may be claimed by workers whose employers have concluded so-called solidarity contracts with the social affairs ministry. These solidarity contracts enable workers to retire early or work part-time from age 55.

In Belgium, a full pension may be claimed by any male worker opting to retire from age 60. Denmark allows early retirement at the age of 55 with full pension.

As of May 1, 1984, workers above a certain age in West Germany are entitled to retire early from working life and to receive from their last employer a special allowance amounting to 65 per cent of their final gross earnings. If an unemployed person or, in small firms, a trainee is engaged as a replacement for the retiring employee, the employer can recover 35 per cent of the cost of the early retirement allowance.

Ontario should follow the progressive examples set by those countries and make early retirement available to those aged 60 and over whose employers agree to replace retiring workers with younger workers.

My proposal for an early retirement program in Ontario is just one part of the basic and substantial pension reforms that the New Democratic Party has proposed which can be made now by the Ontario government.

In addition to the early retirement resolution, this past June I also tabled a resolution in the House dealing with income security for older workers. There are 36,000 unemployed workers in Ontario aged 55 and over. Few of these men and women will find new full-time jobs comparable to their previous employment, because they are victims of the too-young-to-retire, too-old-

to-hire trap. As the Conference Board of Canada has documented, employers are reluctant to hire older workers, even in good economic times.

The financial impact of layoffs and plant closings on older workers is substantial and immediate. Studies show that workers about 55 years old are in the peak savings and income period. Most of their savings are set aside for retirement purposes. About half are still paying off mortgages. These are the people hardest hit by layoffs and plant closings. These are people who have devoted years of service to their employers, and they deserve something better in return for their service.

4:50 p.m.

Plant closings in this province have reached almost epidemic proportions. Hardly a week goes by without news of some new closing. Last week, the Burns food plant in Kitchener laid off 600 workers; in September, Alcan Canada gave the pink slip to 485 workers in Kingston; Wabasso Inc. in Welland is leaving 490 workers without their jobs; and 550 more workers were shown the door by Black and Decker in Barrie when they closed the plant.

We read these reports, but we do not read about the human suffering caused by them, or about the loss of savings, the loss of a house that someone has worked to pay for, the family problems that arise in such times of economic crisis or the loss of dignity.

We hear about these problems from our constituents. I hear from such people quite frequently. What does a member tell one of his constituents when he is contacted about such problems? What can he tell him? How does one represent constituents in the Legislature when one is entrusted with the responsibility of speaking and acting on their behalf?

Just today, I received a letter which I want to put on the record because it shows what the feelings are out there.

"Dear Mr. Di Santo: I am returning the form to you"—my Queen's Park report—"and also I am including this letter to show my appreciation for your efforts to get people like me out of the present situation in the work force.

"I am one of those unfortunate people aged 60. In the last four years, I have been unemployed three times due to the fact that the occupation I chose to follow has now gone youth-oriented and computerized.

"I have been on UIC benefits since January of this year, and my benefits run out just after Christmas. Quite frankly, I am worried and scared about my circumstances. I never thought I

would end up like this in Canada, and having to compete with all the young, energetic, unemployed people out there fills me with complete hopelessness.

"I think it is imperative that people like myself, who feel physically and spiritually burnt out, should be allowed to leave the work force with dignity intact. Please keep up the effort on our behalf for early retirement. Some of us, like me, are getting desperate. If I do not get a job by Christmas, I do not really know what I will do."

This is the predicament of many people about whom I am talking. Clearly, Ontario should provide more protection to older workers than is now offered by the layoff provisions of the Employment Standards Act.

Further, corporations that lay off older workers must recognize they have an additional social responsibility to those people, which under present conditions they can easily avoid. The right of older workers of this province to enjoy the later years of their lives, which should be the best years, in security and comfort must be guaranteed. The emphasis of the program I proposed in June is on increasing corporate responsibility to workers who have been involuntarily retired after a life of productive work.

My income security resolution consists of a two-part program of income support for older workers unemployed as a result of permanent layoff or plant closures.

Under part 1 of the program, workers aged 55 or older with five or more years of seniority whose employment is terminated by layoff or plant closing would be treated for company pension purposes as if they were 65. In addition to immediately paying full pension benefits, a company would maintain all the employee benefits, such as the Ontario health insurance plan, supplementary medical insurance, dental plan and life insurance, until normal retirement age.

Employers must come to recognize that they have a responsibility to the older workers of this province, and the government must be the leader in impressing upon them that they have this responsibility.

Company pension plans, on average, provide long-service employees with only 40 per cent of their pre-retirement income. To avoid financial disaster, it is necessary to supplement the incomes of older laid-off workers.

Under part 2 of the program, a layoff fund financed by a payroll tax on all Ontario employers would provide a bridging supplement equal to the Canada pension plan and old age

security entitlements, about \$650 a month, for a person earning the average industrial wage. A laid-off worker would receive benefits from this fund until he or she found new employment or reached retirement age.

We have an obligation to the older workers of this province, and the time has come to act on it. The early retirement resolution I am putting before the members today and my resolution on income security for older workers are things that can be done and I believe must be done if we are to face up to our obligation. I urge all my colleagues to give it careful consideration.

Mr. Williams: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to participate in the debate this afternoon. Before coming to a critical and objective assessment of the resolution we have before us this afternoon, let me make an interesting side note.

In all the time I have been in this Legislature, I have never seen the member for Downsview (Mr. Di Santo) move to a new oratorical style. I have never seen him read a speech from beginning to end and be so managed and controlled as he was with what he put before us today. Normally, he speaks from the heart, spontaneously and with conviction. It seemed today more as if he were presenting a structured presentation that was put forward as part of a party platform. Perhaps the members opposite are giving us a sneak preview of what is coming a few months down the line as part of what they consider to be a cornerstone of their election platform.

Notwithstanding that, the points of view put forward have been interesting and are deserving of consideration and comment, and that is what I intend to do this afternoon. We have before us a proposal whereby early retirement would be provided for two categories of people: older workers in the heavy labour occupations, which I think is a thoughtful proposal, and older workers who should be replaced on retirement by younger people. These are two very sensitive areas, and there may be some merit in trying to make extra considerations in the pension field.

As I understand the resolution, the early retirement fund would be established through a payroll tax on employers, and benefits would be 50 per cent of the average industrial wage. A part of the resolution does perplex me. Perhaps if the honourable member has time left, he will respond to it.

When he referred to exempting new firms, indicating a five-year period, I was not clear what he meant by an exemption for firms with a higher

proportion of younger workers. I did not know whether he was talking about a third of them being younger and in what age bracket, or whether he meant 50 per cent or 60 per cent. Neither am I clear on what was meant by exempting firms that provide more generous early retirement benefits. By what standards do we consider a firm to be providing more generous early retirement benefits than the norm?

It would be interesting to have answers to those questions, because I find those concepts rather fuzzy without further elaboration.

5 p.m.

In any event, having said that, early retirement is an option that firms have used with some success. I remind members of the Legislature that the Ontario government itself created a voluntary retirement option in the summer of 1983. Under the Ontario plan, employees had to be over 60 years of age and have at least 20 years of government service, or their age and years of service had to total 90.

More than 1,000—specifically 1,039—Ontario public servants took advantage of that plan. This government has had direct experience with regard not only to the concept but also to the application of early retirement. We as a government have also had the benefit of observing it in the private sector. I would say that from these observations and industry conditions we see emerging two major flaws in the resolution being proposed this afternoon by the member for Downsview.

The major flaw is that in both the private sector and in government, early retirement programs work only when offered on a periodic basis. Some people seem to think the magic formula is every five years. I think that is debatable. It seems to be a cyclical thing and one has to take that into account. I do not think this resolution does so.

Voluntary early retirement programs are often established in the private sector because they make good business sense. I think that has been demonstrated clearly as we have come through this difficult economic period. Many firms have implemented those types of programs. At other times when companies have been put in jeopardy because of difficult times, with large layoffs being expected in order to have the firms survive and ensure there will be employment for a large number of their faithful employees, they have offered early retirement to save the jobs of the younger workers with less seniority. This is meritorious and makes good business sense

because it does preserve a company's ability to keep the work force intact.

In these cases, the employer presents and negotiates an appropriate retirement package with the employees or with the employees' union. Once done, the individual employees who qualify can make the choice of accepting the offer or remaining on the job. Quite often in the private sector the experience to date appears to have been that these firms and employees have been able to come to acceptable arrangements. The percentage factor I have available to me is that in the private sector up to 60 per cent or 65 per cent of eligible employees have been taking advantage of these types of early retirement offers.

Interestingly enough, by comparison the Ontario government employees have been less quick to take advantage of such programs. Apparently only one third of the eligible public servants have taken advantage of the voluntary retirement options that have been made available to them to date.

If voluntary early retirement has been offered by a firm, usually a number of years have to pass before the next age group that would be in a position to consider an early voluntary retirement proposal comes forward. With the cyclical nature of retirement in companies, it would appear the idea of maintaining a permanent fund for that purpose would be inconsistent or incompatible with the reality of the work place.

It would be difficult to determine what the initial takeout would be with the establishment of such a fund. If the benefits were not as generous as those negotiated separately with companies, then the fund clearly would be undersubscribed. On the other hand, if it turned out it was more generous, then there would be a large run on the fund and the need to enrich it would probably become clear very early in the game. There are uncertainties about the affordability of such a fund even if it was workable from the other aspect upon which I touched upon a few moments ago.

It is interesting to note that if the Canada pension plan were used to fund full retirement premiums below the age of 65, of course the costs to employers and employees would be very substantial. I think that is taken as read; I think we all understand that problem. While these things may be desirable, sometimes we do have to look at the realities of it from the standpoint of not only the ability of government, through levies by way of payroll tax or whatever, but also that of companies through their own financial

capability to afford these types of programs. The desire may be there, but the financial wherewithal just may not be realistically available.

I think to have a suggestion at this time that a payroll tax be imposed to achieve this end purpose probably is the worst possible scenario. At a time when many small companies, whether they have been in business for four years or for six years, have just gone into the private sector to compete and have found themselves pressed to the wall, this is just not the time to impose further levies on the private sector, as meritorious as the proposal may be.

I have pointed out at the same time some of the efficiencies in the proposal.

The Deputy Speaker: The member's time has expired.

Mr. Williams: While I wanted to address some of the charges currently being imposed under the Workers' Compensation Board as an example of the pressure that business is under today, I will have to leave that until another day for further debate. I will simply say that I believe the proposal, while it may have some merit, is not affordable or appropriate at this time.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I want to join with the other members of the House to discuss the resolution introduced by my colleague the member for Downsview and to say right off, out front, that I support the resolution that has been put forward. I do not necessarily support all the mechanics of how the member wants to fund the plan he has in mind. I do not particularly—

Mr. Nixon: Make the rich pay.

Mr. Mancini: Yes, that would be a good idea. But I think his commitment has some merit and deserves some positive support.

Over the past months I have been meeting with many people from the business community in the constituency of Essex South. They have brought to my attention something similar to what the member has proposed today: that is, to provide for elderly workers—I should not even use that term—for people who have been in the work force for a long number of years, some type of plan for early retirement only if the company from which the worker is retiring will replace that worker with a younger worker.

The plan they put forward to me was to use the unemployment insurance scheme. At the time it sounded very good. Why pay a young individual in his 20s or 30s unemployment insurance to stay at home when we could transfer that money to a worker in his 60s and provide what the younger person really wants: a job to support the

obligations he has incurred, a job to provide some stability and some future to this person's life?

5:10 p.m.

I listened very carefully to the member for Oriole (Mr. Williams), and he mentioned that the government of Ontario had introduced some kind of voluntary plan to encourage workers to retire early from the public service; I believe he used that example. I could not quite fully understand how these people were financially compensated. However, I assume they must have been financially compensated to be enticed into early retirement.

I do not understand why he would be in favour of a plan that would entice senior civil servants with many years of service to retire but would be opposed to someone who worked in a factory or in the construction industry for 30 or 35 years having the same opportunity. Why would he want to give this benefit to civil servants only and not to everybody else in society? These people to whom the member is denying this privilege are paying the freight for him and the thousands and thousands of civil servants he employs.

I say to the member who introduced this resolution that his suggestion for funding, which would place further and greater taxation on business, should be looked at again.

I note he does want to exempt new businesses; that is, businesses that have been established for fewer than five years. We all know it is very difficult to start a new business and to make it successful. I guess the first three to five years are the most crucial years as far as a new business is concerned. However, in today's economy, with the way things are now, with the new technologies that are coming out every day and with the type of competition we are seeing not only within our own boundaries but also worldwide, I am not sure whether that exemption would be enough.

I firmly believe there are more social programs we could implement and fund if we had not only contributions from the companies and the government but also minor contributions from the workers themselves.

I would see no problem in being able to sell such a program. When we look around our province, we see 160,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 out of work, and we see that the government of Ontario is not doing anything about it. The only action we have seen on the unemployment issue as far as young people are concerned is the budget that was brought down by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) some months

ago, when he very cleverly and almost with a magician's wand seemed to be able to create new programs out of the air to take place one year from now, two years from now and in some cases even longer.

We have not addressed the issue of youth unemployment. The Treasurer's budget of several months ago has done nothing to alleviate that issue. All we got was a little bit of smoke and mirrors from the now leadership contender, the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman). As he enters this leadership race and tries to present himself as the next Premier of Ontario, as I am told will at least half a dozen other members of the government party, I say to them that they will not be able to skirt the issue of youth unemployment. They will not be able to talk about platitudes. They have had 41 years of uninterrupted rule. They are now finishing up another four years of a big majority government—

Mr. Nixon: Thank God it is the last.

Mr. Mancini: As my colleague says, this will be the last. They have just finished up another four years of a large majority government, and they have done literally nothing about youth unemployment. They have always pointed the finger at Ottawa, but now that their kissing cousins are in Ottawa they will not be able to do that so readily. They will not be able to point their fingers at Brian Mulroney the way they so easily did at Pierre Trudeau.

Hon. Mr. Ashe: He sure made a good target; that is true.

Mr. Mancini: I think that bothered them, Bob.

Mr. Nixon: You got them. They are white-lipped and trembling.

Mr. Mancini: The sly technique that has been used so successfully by the group across the floor has now disappeared. They are now in the race for a new leader and will no longer be able to sell platitudes to the people.

They should not reject my friend's proposal. They should refine his proposal, if they are actually interested in it. If they are interested in the 160,000 young people who are out of work, they should refine my friend's proposal and see what they can do to make it better.

We heard from the member for Oriole that the government has some kind of voluntary plan for civil servants. That is all fine and well, but we need help for other people than civil servants.

I would like to close by saying that now we have Brian Mulroney in office in Ottawa, I am sure the Conservatives at Queen's Park will be

able, without any problems whatsoever, to work out a deal using the unemployment insurance scheme to fund a program that would encourage older workers to retire and, therefore, provide new jobs for young people. Of course, we would ask those companies for an absolute commitment that, once they took on those individuals, they would keep them for at least a minimum number of years.

I would like to conclude by saying I support the principle of my colleague's resolution 21.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be able to participate in support of my colleague's resolution for a new voluntary early retirement scheme. I believe strongly that the idea of voluntary early retirement is in a sense the next frontier in our social security system, the next step that needs to be taken.

Obviously it will need ultimately to be part of a package of reforms to the Canada pension plan that include enrichment of retirement benefits under the Canada pension plan at normal retirement age and enrichment of benefits to persons who suffer long-term disability. Until such time as some government some day gets around to reforming the Canada pension plan, I think there is a role for Ontario in charting new territory.

We can ask ourselves why we have retirement at the magic age of 65. I asked the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations (Mr. Elgie), who is obviously very interested in this burning issue. Age 65 was set by Chancellor Bismarck, advising the King of Prussia about 100 years ago, just prior to the accession of William Grenville Davis. The Iron Chancellor set 65 as the age for the first public pension system in the Kingdom of Prussia and it remains in 1984 the age of retirement in the kingdom of Canada. Few other western industrial nations have retained age 65 as the only eligibility age for retirement pensions.

5:20 p.m.

My colleague the member for Downsview indicated that a number of countries in western Europe—France, Belgium, Denmark, Britain, Greece, even Germany; it is no longer Prussia, it is West Germany—have retirement benefits available on a voluntary early retirement basis from age 60 for those who have been unemployed for 52 weeks in the preceding 18 months. The Federal Republic of Germany has recognized that elderly workers are not competitive under today's economic conditions and that they deserve special consideration, including the option of obtaining early retirement at age 60.

We in Canada are in some kind of time warp with respect to the necessary social programs appropriate to a modern industrial country. We still pretend that individual responsibility and initiative, those magic key words and slogans, those epithets, those cruel frauds that are bandied about by cynical politicians, can somehow disguise the reality, that we have many tens of thousands of older workers who have been abandoned by the depression in our economy and will never find jobs again.

They have been laid off after a lifetime of employment and have lost their pension benefits and their retirement entitlements. They will never find another job and their unemployment insurance will soon be replaced by welfare payments. For those thousands of older workers who are never going to get back to work, this government's only message is: "You can receive welfare. Make do until you turn 65 and then everything will be fine for you."

What kind of callousness is that? What kind of cloud-cuckoo-land do policymakers live in? Do they not meet people in their riding offices, as we do, who have been laid off? I am sure they do. We meet people in their late 50s or early 60s who have been laid off and will never go back to work. We meet them every Saturday, every Monday, every Wednesday, whenever we have our office hours. We meet them by the score. We all know they are out there. We all understand the realities of the economy today. These people are not going to go back to work. Nobody is going to hire them.

The responsibility is very clear on public policymakers to come up with the appropriate response. Very simply, the appropriate response is some kind of voluntary early retirement scheme.

So far, I have talked about older workers, particularly those in heavy-duty occupations who, for various reasons, economic or physical, cannot continue to work. What about our youngsters? What about the legion of unemployed younger workers in this province? My colleague the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) referred to 160,000 unemployed young people between the ages of 15 and 24 in this province. Yet a moment ago the member for Oriole questioned the affordability of a voluntary early retirement scheme that would retire older workers to make room for younger workers. He questioned the affordability of a scheme that would make it possible for older workers to retire so younger workers could have a job.

What is the cost of an economic system that condemns 160,000 young people to unemployment? Are we going to raise a whole generation in this province who will never have the opportunity to earn their own paycheque or know what it means to get a job and bring home a paycheque? Does this government want a whole generation to grow up on welfare cheques? Is that the policy of this government? That is the consequence of the policy of this government.

Everybody understands the economy has undergone a fundamental change. The job opportunities that were available for my generation when I graduated from school in 1964 are gone for ever. My generation had the opportunity of 10, 12 or 15 job choices as soon as we got out the school door. That is not an exaggeration. Those days are gone for ever. We have a whole generation that knows what this government does not know, that the number of new job opportunities is limited by the revolution in technology. Unless we are prepared to start considering sharing the work that is available in our economy, particularly sharing it with our younger workers, we are condemning a whole group of people to permanent unemployment.

What kind of a generation will it be, this army of 160,000 young people who cannot find work? Where will they learn the discipline of going to work in the morning and working and earning their own living? Will they learn that on welfare, unemployment insurance, temporary work assignments or in makeup training programs for which there is no job at the end? We all know the answer to those rhetorical questions is no. They will learn the discipline at work by having the opportunity to get a job.

Any government that does not do everything in its power to put this army of young unemployed workers to work is skirting the kind of social catastrophe that is hard for some of us to contemplate. What does it mean for a society when 10 per cent, 15 per cent or 20 per cent of its young people are permanently locked out of jobs? What kind of society is that?

When we talk about people who do not have the opportunity to work, form families or do anything except hang around the house and draw welfare, we are not talking about a small number of people. We are talking about a huge sector of our youth work force. This is a permanent phenomenon and not some kind of temporary aberration, a permanent reality that public policy is going to have to catch up with. We do not have a lot of time for public policy to catch up.

The longer-term job creation strategies necessary to create new jobs will be, as the Treasurer is discovering, much more difficult to implement than the rhetoric of a budget would persuade us. There are important social policy initiatives that can be taken and voluntary early retirement is one of them. I have absolutely no doubt the reality of the economy and of youth unemployment will force this government and the federal government to respond. If they fail, it will be at their own peril.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by congratulating the member for Downsview for introducing such an important subject for consideration in private members' hour.

I do not believe we have spent enough time during my sitting here in the Legislature discussing this important subject of pensions. Certainly, there are a number of us in the House this afternoon who have spent considerable time working on this: the vice-chairman of the select committee on pensions who has already eloquently addressed the subject raised in this resolution, the member for Oriole, the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie). Many of us in this House know the urgency that should be attached to the whole subject of pensions for our constituents and for all the people out there. I commend the member for Downsview.

Mr. McClellan: That happened three years ago.

Mr. Cousens: I know. I am complimenting the member for Downsview for bringing up the subject. I do not think we can bring it up enough because there are so many things that need to be considered about it.

I would also like to commend the member for Downsview for the genuine concern he is showing for workers and those people who have a genuine need to leave the work force, be looked after and have some kind of sustenance and support that can be provided by a tangible, realistic type of pension.

In addressing this whole subject, I find I have to take a somewhat different position from that of the member for Essex South who spoke as one who could support the whole issue except, to quote his words, how he would pay for it. That is probably one of the reasons I personally am not able to go along with the recommendations being suggested. It has an awful lot to do with cost, which was addressed very well by the member for Oriole.

We really have to face up to the fact that any program we are going to introduce or have also

has to be costed. It has to be financed. We have to figure out how it is going to be paid for. The difference between this side of the House and possibly the other side of the House is that when one is in government, one has to be responsible for how it is going to be paid for.

5:30 p.m.

Today I would like to share with honourable members three of the concerns I have about this resolution. The first is cost, the second is a total review and a whole perspective on the reforms that are needed in pensions, and the third concerns some of the other programs that are being introduced by our government to help those people who are in definite need.

The first has to do with the cost of implementing an early retirement fund. What we are talking about is a fund that would be paid for by employers. How do employers find the costs? They have to increase labour costs. This has the effect of discouraging hiring. It imposes a competitive disadvantage on Ontario firms in relation to those of other jurisdictions. I say to all honourable members that we have to look at the cost of doing business. We want Ontario to continue to be strong economically, but we cannot then come along and start adding more taxes to them.

Members should realize that there are many taxes that a businessman or businesswoman has to face, and this becomes an additional burden on the income generator. We are saying employers would be affected by the tax, that they are already facing increased costs and that we must therefore not impose an unfair additional burden on our hardworking, conscientious manufacturing base and those people who would have to pay for it.

There is already a significant shortfall between the existing rate of contributions and the rate necessary to pay current benefits. The current combined employer-employee Canada pension plan contribution rate is only 3.6 per cent. The rate will have to increase to about 11 per cent in the future in order to pay for existing benefits, including eligibility for full retirement pension at age 65. We just have to realize where that 11 per cent comes from. That is not a high number; it is an accurate, realistic assessment of the costs of the program we are currently trying to provide for Canadians. That program is going to be short of funds in the near future unless something is done to address that.

The lowering of the eligibility age for full pensions would push the cost of the Canada pension plan above 11 per cent, and many people

do not feel this would be appropriate. Where do we find the money for it?

I say to the member for Downsview that cost is a major concern and I say to the member for Essex South that cost is a major concern. Any time we make changes to any program or introduce new services we have to address the cost element. For that reason alone I was surprised the member for Essex South was able to support it. I guess costs are not important to that good, honourable member.

Mr. Van Horne: Oh, he is a very sensible fellow.

Mr. Cousens: I know he is and I respect him greatly, except for his judgement on this matter.

I would also like to suggest that the whole subject of pensions should not be looked at from the perspective of only one point but that there are so many issues pertaining to pensions in this province and in Canada that should begin to be advanced. I was pleased that, when Ontario called for pension reform, one of the major priorities given to it was reform for single elderly pensioners. We could spend a whole afternoon looking at that, but let us tie the recommendations being presented by the member for Downsview to some of the other important recommendations that are part of the reform suggestions that have been made by our Treasurer, because we see a real need for the single elderly.

We see a need for increased protection in coverage for private pensions. I would like to see something done about pension portability. Why is it that we have not begun to do more on that?

Mr. Mancini: Why does your government not do something about it?

The Deputy Speaker: Order.

Mr. Cousens: We need better pensions for women. We need improved Canada pension plans for survivors and the disabled. We need to do something about pensions for people who work part-time.

There are many issues that have to be faced when we are talking about pensions. Not to take the whole picture and look at it in a complete and honest way is to isolate—

Mr. Martel: Twelve billion dollars in unemployment insurance last year. Where did that come from?

Mr. Cousens: Well, the honourable member—

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre has the floor. He showed considerable courtesy as the other debaters made their input.

Mr. Cousens: They have made limited input. I am trying to give the facts so people truly understand that there is a direction that can be taken.

May I just go on to say in addressing the concern raised by the member for Downsview that it has to do with the fact that there are people who are over 55, who need to be retrained, who are looking for new opportunities and who have little choice to do something about it. What can government policy be to help those people?

Let me tell honourable members that this government has done a great deal to help people to get retrained and to get back into the work force in other ways. Look at the Ontario skills fund, which was announced in the last budget, where \$150 million is being invested over the next three years to help experienced workers adapt to the new demands of this technological area.

I also bring up the new \$2,000 incentive that will be provided to employers who will hire and train laid-off workers over the age of 45 and a government program targeting \$40 million for special training initiatives designed to help women and older workers adversely affected by technological change. These are programs our government is introducing and trying to provide for those people about whom the member for Downsview is concerned.

I say to that member and to all members, as we look at pension reform, we have to look at the whole picture. In looking at that whole picture, we can then come forward with recommendations that will affect all the people of Ontario. In that respect, we can lead forward to the next stage where we are able to do something for those who really need it.

I wish the member well with his recommendations. I think his heart is in the right place, but I wish he would look at some of the costs, some of the overall impact that could be taken to the whole area of pension reform and also realize that our government is trying to do something significant to help those people who need help right now.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I certainly have no hesitation in expressing my support for the resolution. I congratulate the honourable member for bringing it forward. I think his solution is as practical as most of the ones associated with the sorts of situations we have faced since the economy of Ontario has taken such a serious downturn in the last decade.

I was interested in looking at the unemployment statistics pertaining to our young people.

My colleague the member for Essex South has already referred to the 160,000 people between the ages of 15 and 25 who are unemployed. I simply want to bring to your attention, Mr. Speaker, the fact that this is about two per cent worse than it was in June when the Treasurer brought forward his "bold new program" to improve the situation vis-à-vis youth employment, or unemployment.

I feel it is a serious disappointment that the results have been so negative. In fact the employment opportunity levels have gone down over the last month and therefore the unemployment levels have gone up. This is at the very time when many of the young people are returning to their studies, going to community colleges, universities and back to high school. Under these circumstances, when we would expect the number of young people looking for jobs to go down, in fact the figure has gone up by a bit over two per cent. That is certainly a clear indication that the initiatives the last speaker was lauding have been unsuccessful and that we have yet to find the solution to the problem of youth employment that has been before us for the last four or five years.

I see no objection whatsoever to the establishment of a program whereby assistance is provided for the retirement of the people described in the resolution. These people are associated with heavy industry and they are of an age when they still can contribute to the community in many ways. The fact that they are retired will guarantee an opening up of additional jobs for young people.

5:40 p.m.

I used to be a teacher. I have been expecting to be sent back to the classroom over these many years, but I am still here. Frankly, I exercised, for once in my life, rather ill judgement when I took a payout of my previous contributions to the Ontario teachers' superannuation fund. As a matter of fact, I took the money out and built a machinery shed on the farm. There it is, rusting away, while some people in this House, as teachers, have been able to maintain their contributions. I do not blame them for that, because they feel their positions are perhaps a little more precarious and they are prepared to go back into the classroom, if the classroom would ever have them.

The point of this is that those of us who are teachers have friends between the ages of 55 and 60 who are taking a retirement at full pension, or close to full pension, fully indexed. It is paid largely by contributions from the taxpayers of

Ontario into the teachers' superannuation fund. The teachers themselves pay eight per cent on their earnings, but this is a long way from funding in any actuarial way the requirements for paying their pension.

The teachers' pensions are 70 per cent of their best five years—my chief adviser in this matter nodded assent—so the pensions are 70 per cent of their best five years. Many of the teachers, as the members know, who are finally getting salaries somewhere close to what they should be earning, such as up in the \$50,000 range—

Mr. Martel: Try directors of education.

Mr. Nixon: We are not talking about directors and all of the heavy overlay of the outer fringe of the upper crust that was imposed on the education system by the outgoing Premier, but these people are being well looked after. Year by year, we make additional payments, usually in the ball park of \$200 million, in the funding of the teachers' superannuation fund and those cheques go flooding out.

Teachers are notoriously long-lived. It is because of the adrenalin stimulation they get day by day as they face their classes. The old tubes do not get blocked quite as readily as when people are sitting around on a high-cholesterol diet listening to interesting speeches by their colleagues.

These long-lived teachers retire at age 57 at 70 per cent of their best five years. The average of their best five years would be between \$45,000 and \$50,000, with many of them well beyond that and some of them even approaching the salaries that we pay to the public service in this jurisdiction. Their pension fund is largely paid for and financed by the grateful and generous taxpayers of Ontario.

I am not complaining unduly about the fact that the teachers are taking early retirement. After all, that is built into the system just as there is a prospect in my honourable friend's resolution of opening up jobs to young people who have been unemployed and are lounging around the galleries of the Legislature or some other interesting place. We want to make jobs for them. When the teachers retire, qualified young people who have gone through our university system and taken teacher training can to some extent move into those jobs as they become vacant.

The fact that the student enrolment continues to go downward means the returns in this particular program as far as making employment is concerned are not as good as we would hope when we looked at it statistically perhaps a

decade ago. But certainly this instance, particularly where we are giving special consideration to those firms that will undertake a specific program to hire young people to fill the vacancies, has much to recommend it.

I hope that members from all sides of the House will support this and that we can go forward on the basis of this resolution to introduce some legislation that will have some advantageous and positive effects on the employment prospects for the young people in Ontario.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the resolution of my colleague and to say that I am always amazed at the main argument I hear from some members of the government party relating to costs; that is, any time one is trying to provide adequate pension coverage it is going to be costly. I have to wonder why, when we are dealing specifically with older workers who are the victims of plant shutdowns, it is always the workers who do not have any relief from those costs. I have never quite been able to understand that.

When we hear about all the things the government is doing and what needs to be done and the importance of doing it with respect to pensions, I cannot help but laugh a little. I can recall October 30, 1979, and then a debate in the House that followed on November 15, 1979, on a resolution I moved in this House. At the time, it achieved support from members of all parties for some minor reforms to private pension plans. They were very minor reforms, reducing the vesting period to five years, insuring full portability and providing some protection for terminations. Five or six years later, we are still waiting for action on those suggestions.

The select committee on pensions filed its report in the House in 1982. We have never had a debate on it. It made a lot of the same recommendations as well as a few more. There was nothing that dealt with the basic problems in taking an overall look at pensions in this province. We have had it for the last two or two and a half years with no action on it.

Members across the way talk about having to look at the broader scope. In five or six years we have not been able to get to first base with even simple changes, which are not ideological at all, that would put some improvement into private pension plans. The honourable member is making a mockery of this debate when he uses that kind of argument. When it comes to any real reform of pensions, this government not only has been in a 30-year sleep but is also absolutely comatose.

In this House we have raised a number of times the issue of older workers and what happens to them. We have raised it as a result of plant closures. There is a long list of them. There is Consolidated-Bathurst, Canada Packers, SKF, Gardner-Denver—one could go on and on.

For every plant in every survey we have done, whether it was SKF or Consolidated-Bathurst, even as much as two or three years after those plant shutdowns a sizeable number of those workers are still not working. Many of them have difficulty because of their age. When they get into upgrading, educational or retraining programs, they have difficulty in coping. They are also reduced to spending what savings they have. We have sentenced them not only to the loss of a job now but also to a much lower standard of living in terms of what they had been saving for their retirement.

We have this specific group of workers that my colleague's resolution tries to deal with. I think we owe them something more than we have given them in Ontario.

The second concern deals with what we are going to do for jobs for our people and what combination—because it is going to be a combination of proposals—will provide jobs for young people. Why is the idea of voluntary earlier retirement for older workers not a good part of the mix of things we could do to take care of the problems of older workers?

I remind the members of this House—they may not be aware of it—that is an approach that even business is coming around to in Ontario today. If one talks to unions, one will find that the Big Three are trying to improve on the 30-and-out at 55. That has now spread to the automotive parts plants. Paragon Tools in Windsor has just negotiated a contract with the United Automobile Workers that allows for early unreduced pensions with as little as 20 years' service, regardless of one's age.

Hiram Walker negotiated a work-force guarantee with the union, a guarantee of 500 jobs. When they could not meet that guarantee and saw they were going to go down to 420 or 425 jobs, what did they do? They negotiated a very generous earlier retirement to take care of those workers. That is the pattern that is being set today in negotiations. Why is this government so unwilling to take a look? It is one of the answers to the serious problem of early retirement that faces us.

It seems to me that what we have before us is a good, positive, reasonable and responsible suggestion by my colleague. I suggest to the

members across the way, although I do not have much hope of them responding, that before they reject it out of hand or before they give us claptrap about how we need to look at the broader view and at the cost, they come up with a better proposal themselves. This problem is urgent. We have to deal with it and deal with it now.

5:50 p.m.

Mr. Di Santo: Mr. Speaker, I am glad so many people took part in the debate on my resolution. However, I am disappointed that the members opposite did not look at the serious problem my resolution tries to solve. I admit it is a limited resolution and not one that will solve the whole problem of early retirement and the whole problem of young people who are looking for employment. It is only a mechanism I am proposing to this House. I hope members will take it in that spirit and will not reject it outright.

There are many people out there who have come to me and who go to all the members of this House with very serious problems. They are people in their late 50s or early 60s who are out of work and cannot find work and there is no system of social assistance in place for them. My resolution is only an attempt, and I hope the government members will support it. I am open to any suggestion to make it better, more proper and more adequate.

AGRICULTURAL FUNDING

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on resolution 27:

Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Cousens, Drea, Elgie, Eves, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kolyn, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McLean, Pollock, Robinson, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Sterling, Taylor, G. W., Wells, Williams—25.

EARLY RETIREMENT

The following members having objected by rising, a vote was not taken on resolution 33:

Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Cousens, Drea, Eaton, Elgie, Eves, Gillies, Gordon, Gregory, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kolyn, MacQuarrie, McCaffrey, McLean, Norton, Pollock, Robinson, Scrivener, Sheppard, Shymko, Sterling, Taylor, G. W., Wells, Williams, Wiseman—28.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, I might indicate the business of the House for this evening, tomorrow and next week. I think I already indicated earlier the reports that will be debated this evening.

Tomorrow, Friday morning, we will do the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

On Monday afternoon, we will continue the estimates of the Ministry of Northern affairs until six o'clock. There will be no evening sitting on Monday.

On Tuesday, October 16, in the afternoon, we will debate legislation. We will resume the debate on the committee of the whole House stage of Bill 141. The legislation to be done on Tuesday evening will be announced tomorrow or Monday.

On Wednesday, October 17, the usual three committees have permission to sit.

On Thursday, October 18, in the afternoon, there will be private members' public business in the names of the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) and the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio). In the evening there will be the debate on a motion to adopt the recommendations of the 11th report of the select committee on the Ombudsman.

On Friday, October 19, we will continue the estimates of the Ministry of Northern Affairs.

The House recessed at 5:56 p.m.

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Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Tuesday, October 9, 1984

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Tuesday, October 9, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

BICENTENNIAL DINNER

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: As the House gathers, I just wanted to pay personal congratulations to the chairman of the cabinet committee on the bicentennial, the member for Scarborough East (Mrs. Birch), who I thought arranged a marvellous dinner in honour of Her Majesty the Queen last Tuesday evening. I certainly enjoyed it very much.

RETIREMENT OF PREMIER

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I rise at this time, among other matters, to acknowledge the presence in your gallery of the first lady of Ontario, Kathleen, known as Kathy, Davis. It has been my privilege and that of many of us to have known Mrs. Davis for many years, and we want her to know that she is very much in our thoughts on this particular day.

As the member for Brock, the occupant of seat 9, I would like to take just a minute to direct our attention to the occupant of seat 8, the member for Brampton (Mr. Davis).

We know the Premier has come to a very difficult decision, which was made known to the people of this country yesterday, a decision which was obviously that much more difficult because of the characteristics of this man. Committed as he is to a very high level of public service, sensitive to what the stewardship of public responsibility means as it is translated into his daily life, it would be no surprise to anyone that he would take a great deal of time to consider the implications of such an important decision. We respect him for those concerns and for that time.

I am sure, Mr. Speaker, I might be allowed, in fact I can presume, to speak for all Canadians committed to the whole system of parliamentary democracy in this country, for among many things, Bill Davis is seen as a great Canadian who happens to live in Ontario. There is no question about that. There has not been a city, a town or a village in this province, no matter what its size, which at some time during the course of his visits as a minister and as Premier, and during periods

of consultation, has not benefited from his attendance and from his concern.

There are very few people who have not come into contact with this man in one way or another during the course of a quarter of a century of public service. Speaking very personally, I want to indicate that it has been my privilege to have been associated with a man who has made history. There will be many who will analyse that history, those who are charged with the responsibility for its recording and for the analysis to which I have already made reference; but it has been the privilege of all of us to be with a man who was making history, making his contribution, making his presence felt on the body politic and against the background of the commitments that are his.

I have been associated with the member for Brampton, formerly the member for Peel, for 21 of those 25 or more years. Others, as I have mentioned, will have their opportunity to make their opinions known with respect to these important Davis years. History was made. It was made without arrogance, without animosity or rancour, without hostility or stubbornness. It was made rather with an attitude of this wonderful country of ours, Canada, first, in the spirit of very open federalism, with a keen sense of what it means to translate fair play into our political decision-making and with a deep compassion.

As a member of his caucus, I should point out that this man not only led the Progressive Conservative Party of Ontario but also was known as our friend. To all men and women over the years who have committed a portion of their lives and their gifts to making this country a better place in which to live, he has served as a tremendous example of characteristics and traits that are certainly worthy of our emulation.

All these public responsibilities were discharged in a spirit of respect and an attitude of healthy debate with those who might have points of view that are different from his. It is on a very personal basis indeed, as Bob Welch from Brock, that I regard the leader of our party, the Premier of Ontario, this man, Bill Davis, as one who represents the highest ideals of public service and conduct. He expected no less from

those of us who had the privilege of serving with him.

I suppose the greatest tribute to him has been the spirit in which this decision was arrived at, the fact that in the evolution and development of the particular political party to which we belong, these opportunities are provided to reflect, renew, regroup and think in terms of new initiatives and new emphasis.

Another great tribute to him is the fact that he has built so well, so that those of us who have the opportunity of carrying on in our respective capacities, whatever they may be, can look to the future with some degree of optimism and confidence because of the foundation that has been so well and truly built by Bill Davis as the Premier of this province.

I feel quite privileged to have this opportunity to stand in this Legislature and on behalf of my colleagues as well as on behalf of all Canadians of good will throughout this country who believe in this country as he does, to pay tribute to this truly great Canadian and wish for him, his wife and his family many years of happiness as he responds to what I am sure will be new challenges and new opportunities, to be seen constantly in the service of those principles and ideals which we all cherish and hold so high. Bill, we wish you well.

2:10 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add my voice and the voice of my colleagues to the millions of Ontarians who have expressed their admiration and gratitude to the Premier on the occasion of his impending retirement from this phase of his public life. I think it is appropriate to do so in this House, the Premier's working home for the past 25 years.

When the Premier made his announcement yesterday, he said, "This is not the end of an era in Ontario politics." If I may, I will allow just one note of disagreement to this statement. It is indeed the end of an era in Ontario politics. It is the end of a time when one man's singular political skills dominated the agenda in the House and on the hustings, skills which have left their indelible mark on the party and on the province he so tirelessly served.

This is not the time to focus on our political disputes; they are legion and they are the stuff of politics. Rather, I would like to take this opportunity to praise him once again for one of the truly courageous hallmarks of a very distinguished career. In their analyses of his retirement, many commentators have said, "Without his support from the beginning, Cana-

da might not have its own Constitution today." Few people would disagree with that assessment.

In a few months the Premier will leave the political stage of Ontario. I know he will leave with his sense of decency and dedication to his province and family still strong and intact. It will serve as an example to those families whose lives are in the glare of public life. To him, to his wife, Kathleen, who has shared, with the same class and skill he has, all his political battles, and to his marvellous family, on behalf of my colleagues I wish you well and Godspeed.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I think it was Adlai Stevenson, whose words I have quoted before, who said—and I think this is perhaps a good reminder to politicians in all walks of life—"Flattery is a great thing so long as you do not inhale." I hope the Premier is not inhaling today.

I am also reminded that the very last occasion on which I was a witness at a similar occasion was when many members from all sides of the House of Commons spoke in December 1979, when Prime Minister Trudeau retired finally from political life. All joking aside, the Premier has earned the respect and affection of the members of our party and of millions of Ontarians and indeed of millions of Canadians.

All of us who are in public life and politics, even those of us who cannot understand everything the Premier is trying to say from time to time—and I suspect that is the majority of us—have certainly come to have an extraordinary respect not only for his political abilities and his success but also for the success, if I may say so, of the party of which he is the leader. I say this with a sense and more than just a twinge, perhaps with an avalanche, of regret. It has obviously been great.

He has great private abilities as well. He has great public talents, but he has the qualities as an individual that make him a model, I suspect, for many of us in this difficult business.

I do not mind saying that in my private dealings with him I have enjoyed getting to know him a little bit. I have also enjoyed being put to the test and being on my guard even in those private conversations. I have always had the feeling that whatever we were discussing was being quietly stored away for use perhaps on another occasion.

He has great standards of integrity. He has a deep sense of this province. He has not done some things that many of us would have liked him to have done, and from time to time he has even done some things that we regret his having done. But as the leader of my party, I can

honestly say to him that we respect him, that we like him and that we are going to miss him a great deal.

But I have a suspicion, and indeed I suspect it is a feeling many of us have, that he will be around. I hope, and I express this hope on behalf of many of us, that he will be around in public life in one way or another to serve this province and to serve this great country of ours, about which I know he feels so strongly.

De temps en temps nous n'avons pas été tout à fait d'accord, nous avons eu nos différences entre nous comme chefs de partis différents. Mais je veux l'assurer qu'il a le respect de tous les Ontariens, qu'il a certainement le respect de tous les membres de mon parti et qu'il a gagné aussi l'affection et l'amitié de tous mes collègues et des citoyens de notre province.

Mr. Speaker, the formality of these occasions and the distance at which we find ourselves perhaps prevents us from doing some things. Nevertheless, I would now simply like to walk across the floor and shake the Premier's hand since, if this were any other place and any other time, that is exactly what I suspect most of us would like to do.

2:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, as I think most members will understand, the Premier of this province is not often groping for words. I may grope, but I have never had difficulty using a whole lot of them without too much punctuation and without worrying about split infinitives or dangling participles.

After listening to the member for Brock (Mr. Welch), the member for London Centre (Mr. Peterson) and the member for York South (Mr. Rae), I almost decided to change my mind; but I recall the words of the member for York South about not inhaling, so I shall not change my mind.

In as simple a way as I can, I want to thank my colleagues in our caucus for what they have meant to me and for what they have communicated to me in the past several days, and to thank the member for Brock for not only his thoughtful, sensitive and, I guess I would say, somewhat exaggerated remarks, but most importantly for his references to my wife, who is in the gallery.

It has been a very difficult few days for the Davis family, but they have been interesting too. Kathleen and Neil were in cabinet yesterday. It was the first time we have had strangers in the House. Kathleen came with me to caucus today. Our caucus was as unanimous and well-behaved as I have ever seen it.

Mr. Sargent: You should have her there more often.

Hon. Mr. Davis: I must say to the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), whose interjections I will really miss, that he might learn something from her.

I made the decision for a variety of reasons. I will not in any way impose upon the members of this House except to reiterate what I have said, that my service, not just to my party but to our province and to this country, has meant so much to me. I have made too many speeches in the past about being an Ontarian, but a Canadian first; I will not repeat them on this occasion.

I have sometimes been described by people in the media as being a little bland. Who knows what that means? I have been portrayed as being a somewhat unemotional person. That may appear to be the case on the surface, but I say today that the past several days have been an emotional period for me, for Kathy and for our family.

Here in this assembly I will continue to represent the views of the government and debate with the members across the floor of the House. I have a genuine respect and affection for those who share this most onerous of responsibilities, the opportunity to serve our constituents and serve the public of this province.

To the Leader of the Opposition and the leader of the New Democratic Party I give my thanks. To the members of my cabinet and caucus I give my heartfelt appreciation. I have one word of advice for those who wish to succeed to a sometimes rather difficult post: as they address the great nominating convention that will take place fairly soon, the candidate who mentions my great riding of Brampton several times in the address is bound to receive some sympathetic support.

APPOINTMENT OF STEPHEN LEWIS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the members of the House would want me to recognize the passage of an event in the life of another very distinguished citizen of Ontario who, while not from Brampton, has visited Brampton many times. I would point out to the Premier (Mr. Davis) that I have mentioned the riding twice in one sentence.

I am referring to Stephen Lewis, the former leader of our party, who was a member of this House for many years and who was recently honoured by an appointment as ambassador of Canada to the United Nations. Speaking as a

member of my party, I am very proud of that appointment.

If I may speak personally, since Mr. Lewis's appointment is one that was held by my father, it is one to which I have a special attachment and in which I have a special sense of pride. I know all members of the House will want to join with me in paying their respects to someone who will be an extraordinarily fine spokesman for all of Canada in an international forum such as the United Nations at a time when a voice of compassion, reason, humour and great humanitarianism is required more than ever.

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of myself and my colleagues, I would like to share in the observations made by the leader of the New Democratic Party of Ontario. My colleagues and I feel the appointment by the new government of Canada of Stephen Lewis to head our delegation at the United Nations is an inspired and positive one. We wish Mr. Lewis all the very best in his new responsibilities. It is true to say that some of us will miss him on the radio on Tuesday mornings, and elsewhere.

I recall, as I know a number of members might also recall, that day in late 1978 when, at the adjournment of the fall session, the then leader of the New Democratic Party and the Premier of this province—I remember it well; I think I had a public comment at the time—left the chamber together to call the Lieutenant Governor to your dais, Mr. Speaker. I thought to myself: "I think we will hear from that pair again. I think their work is not yet concluded."

I was driving home to Pembroke the other day from Wingham when I heard on the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. news at two o'clock that the new government had appointed Mr. Lewis to that new responsibility. The first two words that crossed my mind were "Bill Davis." When I heard Mr. Lewis on Friday night on The Journal indicating that my private instincts were right, that our distinguished Premier had had a role to play—I suspect a very significant role—in that appointment, I thought of that departing scene six years ago when the Premier and Mr. Lewis left this chamber together.

I want to wish Stephen Lewis all the very best in his important new responsibilities. I am sure he will serve our province and our country with great distinction in a very important job.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the government and the members of my caucus, I would like to say a few words about the appointment of Stephen Lewis as Canada's ambassador to the United Nations.

Stephen and I were both elected from adjoining ridings in Scarborough in 1963. At times we sparred very vigorously across this House. There were not many things we agreed upon in those early days in this House, but as we came to debate with each other, we came to recognize and appreciate each other. I think the members of our caucus have appreciated the sincerity with which Stephen Lewis fought for those things he believed in.

His appointment to the ambassadorship at the United Nations is a very inspired one. Stephen Lewis began his career teaching in a Third World country, if I recall correctly. He now takes his place in an august world body in which the Third World to a large degree holds the balance of power. His chance to do something for Canada is going to be great and will be very significant.

2:30 p.m.

As we congratulate Stephen Lewis on his appointment, we must also congratulate the Prime Minister of Canada, Brian Mulroney, who has shown great inspiration and—

Mr. Rae: There is hope for all of us.

Hon. Mr. Wells: I notice the present leader of the New Democratic Party sort of praying he will also be noticed. I am sure he does not figure that the election is already over and has given up already. However, I would suggest he pass along a note if he has any suggested position he would like.

I state again that I think it shows the depth of understanding and the kind of leadership that Brian Mulroney is bringing to this country. This is exemplified by this appointment and by the many other things he will do in the four years ahead as he leads Canada to even greater heights.

Our congratulations go to a former member of this Legislature who now assumes, on behalf of all of us, a very important seat on the world stage.

WORLD SERIES

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, I will take only a couple of moments. On the lighter side, tonight is the beginning of the World Series. I am sure the member for Sarnia (Mr. Brandt) will join me. I remember the Premier (Mr. Davis) was in Windsor back in June—

Mr. Watson: Have you taken a special interest in baseball lately?

Mr. Cooke: Yes, I must confess I have taken a greater interest in baseball in the last few weeks. We saw the Chicago Cubs were beaten and so will Fergie Jenkins be beaten.

The Premier was in Windsor back at the end of June and was booed by the great people of Windsor when he said he was going to be rooting for the Blue Jays and expected that they would win the pennant, even though at that time they were 10, 12, 15 games behind the team known as the Windsor Tigers, or more commonly known as the Detroit Tigers.

On the day the World Series is beginning, I would have the Premier accept this hat. Perhaps he will repent and begin to root for the winners, the Detroit Tigers.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Speaker, may I suggest that I have no reason to repent. I might also say I will be delighted to support the Detroit Tigers because I believe in family unity. If the member does not understand the relationship, in the Premier's office we describe ourselves as the family. It will be an occasion where I will be totally onside with my deputy minister, who has been a Detroit fan since about age two.

I thank the member very much for the hat. Before anybody decides to present anything else, I am not going to take a walk down this aisle, but I am taking that aisle to take my wife to lunch. I invite the member for Renfrew North (Mr. Conway), in case he feels there is any significance or anticipated hope in the future by his references to a walk I took in that direction, if he wishes to join the two of us, he is more than welcome.

DEATHS OF POLICEMEN

Mr. Treleaven: Mr. Speaker, it is with regret that I draw the attention of this House to the tragic events of this past weekend in Woodstock. The violent death of Constable Jack Ross is a personal tragedy to me and to the entire community. Constable Ross spent his entire life as a resident of Oxford county with the exception of two years serving elsewhere with the Ontario Provincial Police.

On behalf of my colleagues, I wish to express our profound sympathy to Jack's wife, Ruth, their family and to the other people killed and injured in this wild rampage. We owe a debt of gratitude to the police officers of this province who are paying such a high price to protect us.

LEGISLATIVE PAGES

Mr. Speaker: Before proceeding with the ordinary business of the House, you will all have noticed that we have new pages with us today and I would like to take this opportunity to read their names into the record so you may thank them at

the appropriate time and in the appropriate manner.

Alison Amero, Cambridge; Christian Bailey, Lakeshore; Steve Belanger, Kenora; Lisa Black, Peterborough; Susan Caughill, Dufferin-Simcoe; Brian Friend, Windsor-Riverside; Angela Godsoe, Beaches-Woodbine; Alexander Heath, Waterloo North; Stephen Lajoie, Simcoe Centre; Meredith Love, Grey; Christopher Martin, Durham West; Gary Moloney, Scarborough North; Irene Nahwegahbow, Algoma-Manitoulin; Marianne Olmsted, Ottawa West;

Jennifer Peng, St. Andrew-St. Patrick; Kathleen Pengelly, Erie; Daniel Poot, Victoria-Haliburton; Blair Powell, Parry Sound; Laren Sweet, Brampton; Glenn Tattersall, Grey-Bruce; Kristin Van Horne, London North; Emily Weedon, Don Mills; and Mark Young, York West. We take the opportunity to welcome all these pages to this session.

STATEMENTS BY THE MINISTRY

DEATHS OF POLICEMEN

Hon. G. W. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, it is on a sombre note that I bring this information to the House, and I would like to add to the comments of the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven). I am sure the members of this House will join me in expressing our sorrow over the deaths of two more Ontario police officers in the line of duty over the weekend.

Constable Jack Ross of the Ontario Provincial Police was killed Sunday when he was shot during a siege at Woodstock. He was a 22-year veteran of the force, a dedicated officer and the father of five children.

Early this morning Constable William Grant, 27, of York Regional Police died when his cruiser was rammed by a young man who later took his own life. Constable Grant's wife is expecting their second child in a matter of weeks.

This brings to seven the number of police officers murdered in the past year. All of us find this tragic toll appalling. It serves to remind us of the sacrifices made by our police officers as they continue their dedicated service to the people of this province.

With your permission, Mr. Speaker, I would like to express the condolences of the members of this House to the families of all of those officers who died, as well as to the family of the officer who was killed over the weekend in Montreal. The five other officers killed in the last year were Metropolitan Toronto Police Constable David Dunmore, 41; Peel Regional Police Constable Dwayne Piukkala, 24; York Regional Police

Constable Doug Tribbling, 49; OPP Constable William McIntyre, 33; and Nepean Police Constable David Utman, 38.

All of us are concerned about the safety of our police officers, and I should like to inform the House of two recent initiatives that will involve examining the issues that affect the safety of police officers.

I have asked Dr. Ross Bennett, Ontario's chief coroner, to conduct an inquest into the deaths of Constable David Dunmore of the Metropolitan Toronto Police force, who was shot to death on September 18, and of the person who shot him. Because charges have been laid in connection with the incident, I am limited in what I can say at this time. However, the inquest will investigate the availability of weapons and the issue of video violence, areas that concern me greatly, as I am sure they do all members of this House.

In addition, I want to advise the members of this House that plans are under way for an early meeting of the committee of police officers and civilians to review police pursuits, which I announced a short time ago. John MacBeth, QC, vice-chairman of the Ontario Police Commission and a former Solicitor General of the province, has agreed to chair that committee, and I have received a number of inquiries from interested citizens offering to help.

The mandate of that committee will include a review of police procedures in stopping a vehicle at the conclusion of a pursuit and, for that matter, of procedures to be followed by the police in the many different circumstances in which the police must take action to pull a motor vehicle over.

2:40 p.m.

The police officers of Ontario enjoy a very high level of support, confidence and trust from the people of this province. They are justifiably very proud of that support, that confidence and that trust. At the same time, police officers in this province are understandably very concerned about their own safety. They want to protect themselves, as well as the public they serve. We must do everything we can to protect them and we will do so in a manner that in no way diminishes that trust, competence and support which they have from the public of this province.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I would like to add a few words to those of the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) and the member for Oxford (Mr. Treleaven). I would like to make particular reference to the late Constable Ross and offer my most sincere sympathies to his widow and family.

On occasion, when I travel back and forth between my residence and this chamber, I take the old back country road 97 through small communities such as Bright and Plattsville. On more than one occasion I have had the opportunity to have a pleasant bottle of Coke and a chat with Constable Ross. We seemed to stop at the same little Shell station along the way. He was an officer who loved his work and who held the respect of the community. I feel a personal sense of loss, beyond which I feel a tremendous sense of repulsion at the loss of life among our police officers. I would like to add my condolences to the families.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, on behalf of our caucus and as critic of the Ministry of the Solicitor General, I would like to join in the expression of condolences to the families of the deceased police officers who were killed in the line of duty.

This raises some very profound questions with respect to the adequacy of the administration of the police forces in the province and raises many questions that we will have to deal with in this assembly. I am pleased with the initiatives that have been taken by the Solicitor General, particularly with respect to high-speed chases.

On this occasion I really want to say to the Solicitor General that he has our wholehearted support in joining with him in expressing our warmest sympathy to the families of those officers.

TRANSIT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to be able to announce that my ministry has been awarded the prestigious Government Agency Transit Achievement Award by the American Public Transit Association.

It was also my privilege to accept this award on behalf of Ontario and my ministry at the association's annual meeting in Washington, DC, on October 2.

The award is presented every year in recognition of "outstanding execution of public transportation responsibilities and contributions to the transit industry."

The awards committee praised Ontario's unique subsidy programs and our involvement in the development of advanced vehicle technology and transit information, communications and control systems.

This is our second major APTA award, since this is the same US-based international organization which in 1972 chose the Premier (Mr. Davis) as Transit Man of the Year.

I would also like to point out that the Toronto Transit Commission was honoured with the 1984 APTA Management Innovation Award for the transit system whose specific operating programs have demonstrated innovative concepts and effective problem-solving techniques that are adaptable for use by other systems.

This recognition of Ontario's commitment to providing the best possible service to our urban transit riders is most gratifying, especially coming, as it does, from our peers in the transit field.

ANNUAL REPORT,
MINISTRY OF TRANSPORTATION AND
COMMUNICATIONS, 1983-84

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have one other brief statement.

I am pleased today to present to the House my ministry's annual report for the fiscal year ending March 1984. Because of some unforeseen production delays, the report, I must say, is a little overdue, but in my opinion is well worth waiting for.

I would like to take this opportunity to point out some of the highlights. They include awarding a \$38-million contract for the twinning of the Burlington Bay Skyway; planning for the GO advanced light rail transit interregional transit system; continued progress on Scarborough's intermediate capacity transit system; celebrating the St. Lawrence Seaway's 25th anniversary; and tabling two significant documents on trucking, the Uffen report and Responsible Trucking.

These are a few of the accomplishments outlined in the annual report. I trust the members will enjoy reading the report that will be put in their mailbox.

Mr. Conway: It is a big announcement; here it comes.

Interjections.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, they are testing me.

Mr. Sweeney: You know what they say about the heat in the kitchen.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Yes. That is why I like microwaves.

Interjections.

TRADE WITH U.S.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, I wish to report to the House on the recent decision of the US administration to reduce its steel imports and to bring to members' attention the significant and

active role played by the Ministry of Industry and Trade to defend Ontario against the threat of US protectionism.

In late 1983 and early this year, the US steel industry launched a concerted lobbying effort to restrict steel imports across the board. The potential negative impact on Ontario of such measures could have been severe. Fully 80 per cent of the Canadian steel industry capacity is located in our province, and the proposed actions threatened to jeopardize about \$900-million worth of our steel exports and thousands of jobs in Ontario.

I am relieved and happy to report that three weeks ago President Reagan rejected steel import quotas in favour of more selective measures to manage excessive import surges into the US market. Assurances have been given that Canada-US steel trade will not be affected by any such measures.

This positive outcome did not just happen. Joint efforts by the Canadian steel industry and the Ontario government helped to convince US policymakers that Canada is a fair steel trader and that measures taken against Canadian steel would actually hurt the US. I believe our efforts on behalf of the industry were also instrumental in stimulating a more active federal government stance on this critical issue.

Specifically, the government of Ontario undertook the following major commitments:

The Premier visited Washington in February and raised Ontario steel concerns with key administration officials and congressmen.

My parliamentary assistant the member for Prince Edward-Lennox (Mr. J. A. Taylor) visited Washington in April to promote greater sensitivity on the steel issue among senior congressmen.

Senior representatives in several of our ministry's US regional offices visited or contacted congressional district offices of key congressmen regarding our steel concerns.

I went to Washington in June—that made the difference—and again emphasized our steel concerns to selected administration officials and members of Congress. I followed this up with a series of telephone conversations to keep our arguments front and centre in their minds.

Our government also made calls to many subsidiaries of US companies in Ontario to request that US head offices speak out against restrictions on Canada-US steel trade.

The Premier wrote to all the Great Lakes governors on the steel issue in August.

The Ministry of Industry and Trade actively participated on the steel task force established by the federal government and the industry.

Let me conclude by indicating that although the steel threat has subsided, I do not believe that protectionist tendencies in the US are suddenly going to disappear. We must remain vigilant. But we have established effective relationships in Washington and we have helped make Congress more aware of the special nature of our relationship with the US. This is an investment which should pay significant dividends in the future.

My ministry looks forward to working closely with the federal government and industry to maximize our effectiveness in defending US market access for our exports.

2:50 p.m.

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDING

Hon. Mr. Drea: Mr. Speaker, during the last few years of difficult economic times, other jurisdictions were forced to cut back social service programs. I am proud to say, however, that not only has this government continued to meet its commitment to assist those in real financial hardship, but we have improved our levels of assistance to those in need. In this we are unique in North America.

In this regard, I am pleased to tell members about a new package of improvements and benefits my ministry will be introducing, effective January 1, 1985, to assist Ontario's socially disadvantaged. The total provincial cost of these improvements will amount to \$61.8 million. As members know, these costs are shared with the federal government under the Canada assistance plan. This new improvement package brings the combined value of enhancements alone to our income maintenance social assistance programs over a three-year period to \$175 million.

Let me point out that I gave my commitment to municipalities through the president of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario some 18 months ago that we would give them the earliest possible notice of planned increases to our social assistance programs. My purpose in announcing these improvements now is to aid municipalities in planning their budgets and administrative adjustments for the coming year.

This improvement package was developed by the Treasurer of Ontario (Mr. Grossman) and myself during the summer months after the Treasurer's presentation of the Ontario budget in May.

Mr. Rae: There is one delegate.

Hon. Mr. Drea: What was that?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Drea: If the member does not have the courage to repeat it, it is not my problem.

In his fiscal plan for the province, the Treasurer provided contingency funds so that together we could work out this new program in the provision of social assistance across Ontario. The Treasurer's financial skill has enabled us to ensure that significant new benefits will be available to blind, developmentally and physically disabled people wherever they live.

In keeping with our policy of ensuring that increases are provided to those in greatest need, recipients with dependent children and those with high shelter costs have been given special increases under this new package. In addition, \$4.2 million of the total package has been allocated to provide dental coverage to the blind and to developmentally and physically disabled recipients of family benefits.

Let me run through the remaining highlights of the improvement package.

First, under this package the majority of single people and heads of households on family benefits and general welfare assistance will receive a 4.5 per cent increase in their basic allowance.

Second, dependent children of recipients will receive an average 7.5 per cent increase in their portion of family benefits and general welfare allowances. This will provide extra assistance to some 180,000 dependent children. Let me add that our higher increase for children is evidence of our commitment to ensuring that parents receive the financial assistance they need to provide adequately for their children.

Third, the maximum shelter subsidy for single people with high shelter costs will be increased to \$100 a month, up \$10 a month. At the same time, the shelter subsidy for families with high shelter costs will be increased to an overall maximum of \$155 a month, up \$15 a month.

Finally, recipients in remote parts of northern Ontario will be eligible to receive up to an extra 20 per cent supplement to their assistance to defer the high costs of basic needs in the far north.

Since they are protected from rapidly rising shelter costs, about 36,000 recipients who board with friends, relatives or others not operating for a profit will not receive any increase in assistance at this time. However, since the majority of these recipients are handicapped, they will qualify for the new dental coverage.

I am proud of the fact that during difficult economic times the province did not cut a single social benefit or program. Instead, as a result of the prudent management of the resources available to us, both human and financial, we have been able to enhance, expand and make improvements in our social assistance programs.

ORAL QUESTIONS

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I will ask a question of the Treasurer, if I can pry him loose for a moment.

Mr. Conway: I think they are working a deal, assuming Darcy does not come in. If Darcy comes in, Larry is in trouble.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Peterson: I have a question to the Treasurer about the financial policies of this government. The Treasurer will be aware that in the last couple of weeks there have been significant plant closures in this province. Just to refresh his memory, they include Alcan in Kingston, 485; Wabasso in Welland, 490; Black and Decker in Barrie, 550; and Burns in Kitchener, 600. There have been more than 2,000 announcements of lost jobs in the last two weeks.

He will be aware that unemployment is up over a year ago. In spite of his prophecies of an economic recovery, there is no solace for the unemployed in this province. In fact, the unemployment numbers are going up.

My question to the Treasurer is simply what answers does he have for the more than 2,000 people who were laid off permanently last week and where is the economic recovery for them?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, as is always the case, the performance of the economy is going to vary from industry to industry and community to community. Government economic policy is pointed quite properly at the total provincial economy with particular situations being dealt with—and I might say very effectively—by my colleagues, the Minister of Industry and Trade (Mr. F. S. Miller) and the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay).

In terms of reflecting on the recovery, we should remember that the budget predictions are not only proving to be accurate, but if anything, a little bit understated. We will end up at about five per cent growth this year. We will create at least the 125,000 jobs we predicted in the budget. Those are measurements all other provinces envy.

There will invariably be plant closures even in the strongest economy. It happens today in the United States; it happens in Japan. That is the way it goes. It is always a tragedy in those circumstances for the employees involved.

Happily, in this province the Ministry of Labour has put in place a series of initiatives whereby the ministry is able to come in and assist those employees immediately. If performance to date is any indication in terms of other plant closures, I am confident the good works of the Ministry of Labour will be able to relocate many of those people into other jobs.

In addition, in terms of looking at job alternatives for those people and other people, in order to put the whole picture into perspective, while Ontario has seen those unfortunate announcements in the past couple of weeks. Ontario has also seen, in the auto sector alone, announcements of \$2-billion worth of new investment coming on stream next year and the years following. By rough calculation that will create at the very least five to six times the numbers of jobs the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Peterson) is talking about being lost in these unfortunate circumstances.

These things balance off in an economy such as ours, but happily in this jurisdiction those things not only balance off, but we net up very well ahead.

Mr. Breithaupt: Mr. Speaker, the minister may choose to redirect this to the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware, through the initiatives which are involved, of the details with respect to each of these projects, and particularly as it affects my constituency the matter of the Burns plant, where it was commented upon that the announcement of closing might be a bargaining ploy, but on the other hand, it might be a long-term decision of the company?

Is the minister becoming involved as Treasurer with some of the general areas of growth and alternatives in these very large closings where they have a major impact on a community, or are the details and initiatives being developed only through the Minister of Labour, concerned as I know he is with attempting to sort out each of these difficult themes when they do arise?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member might want to address some of the specifics with regard to that circumstance to my colleague, the Minister of Labour.

Before inviting the member to do so, I would point out that those circumstances are shared with all of the ministries involved. Often it goes far beyond just the ministries of Industry and

Trade, and Labour. Often it goes to the Ministry of Colleges and Universities, invariably to the Ministry of Treasury and Economics and to other ministries where appropriate.

3 p.m.

In our case, those details are shared with me, both as Treasurer and as chairman of the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development. BILD, as members may recall, has community economic transformation agreements, a \$20-million initiative coming out of the budget this year. Those are intended for those larger communities that have undergone a major transition in terms of losing a significant employment base and that may have an alternative developed in order to replace that particular circumstance.

My colleague is a member of BILD and he would share that with BILD. If a transformation agreement might assist a community in recovery, together with the other things the ministry does, that too is considered by us. Yes, it is all shared.

Mr. Breithaupt: The Minister of Labour might wish to comment on the bargaining ploy theme and the other areas of interest.

Mr. Speaker: Does the Treasurer redirect that question? The Minister of Labour, briefly, please.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I will be meeting in just a few minutes' time this afternoon with the president of the Burns company, who has flown here from Calgary today. Later in the day I will be meeting with the union executive of the local at Burns.

Earlier in the piece the Burns company was prepared to shut down the operations. We persuaded them at that time to hold off until they had completed their negotiations in the Winnipeg plant. They consented to do that, and once they had completed those negotiations, they began to negotiate again in the Kitchener area. Unfortunately, the parties were a fair distance apart. Negotiations broke down and a decision was announced to close the plant.

That decision was announced, but we are meeting a little later today and I go into meetings optimistically. Regrettably, one only hears about the losers with respect to the plant closures, but there have been a fair number of winners. As the Treasurer pointed out, BILD has been successful in helping several businesses that would otherwise have disappeared.

Guelph Engineering in the same area comes to mind as one that has been kept alive through the efforts of the Minister of Industry and Trade and his ministry in the hope that it will be able to be a

viable operation. Abitibi-Price, now St. Marys Paper Inc., in Sault Ste. Marie is another one that was assisted by BILD. As a result, there was a big headline in the local newspaper on the weekend that St. Marys Paper Inc. has made a profit for the first three months of its existence and is planning on making a profit for the next three months of its existence.

Mr. Mackenzie: Mr. Speaker, I would like to refer as well to the plants that were listed, to the 1,250 workers at Massey-Ferguson, to the fact that at Stelco now they are laying off the workers who were called back for summer replacement and to the fact that we have an awful lot of the older workers in the plants that have been shut down who are still out of work as we checked through on them in some of the Hamilton plants.

I am wondering if the Treasurer has any word for us with respect to future policy that will take a look at some more responsibility, before these plants are closed, for the workers who are involved and some additional opening up of the processes or public justification, so we will know why and who is going to benefit from the consolidations and the plant rationalizations that are going on right across this province.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, those questions should properly be addressed to the Minister of Labour. I refer them to my colleague.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the Ministry of Labour has been relatively successful in encouraging a good number of these plants that are closing to go beyond the minimum standards set out in the Employment Standards Act. This is small solace for the workers who are being terminated, but at least there have been notices that have been greater than called for, there have been enhanced pension plans in many of the cases and there has been severance pay beyond what is called for under the act. We go into each meeting we have where there is a closure on that basis of trying to improve the terms of the closure, so the traumatic effect will be lessened to some degree for the workers.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, in his response to my leader's question, the Treasurer indicated we can expect that plant closures are going to take place from time to time in some industries. I point out to the Treasurer that we are not talking about "from time to time" or "some industries." During the last three weeks, I believe, we have had a closure of a metals production plant, a paper products plant, a small appliance plant and a meat-packing plant. They are absolute closures. It has also been drawn to the Treasurer's attention

that there are rather massive layoffs in other areas.

The point the Treasurer must address himself to is that since we have closures over such a widespread geographical area and in such large numbers, the economic recovery plan he put in his last budget is simply not doing the job. Does the Treasurer now have in hand, or will he soon have in hand, a second proposal that will do the job?

Are we going to get another economic statement before this year is out or in the very near future, or are we going to stand aside and watch more of these plants close? Where will the next one be? Ottawa? London? Windsor?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, without apportioning responsibility or credit for the excellent growth in Ontario this year to the budget, the private sector or anything else, I would have to say that we must have been doing something right because we will far outstrip the rest of Canada in terms of performance. The statistics will verify that.

The reality is that those plant closures would be of concern whether they were in one area or spread out as the honourable member indicates they are.

Mr. Sweeney: It is symptomatic of the problem.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: With respect, if the member looks at what is behind those closures, I do not believe I have heard provincial policies advocated here by his party or the New Democratic Party that would have prevented them. For the most part, those closures are occurring for the same reasons that plants are being closed all over the world as the process of rationalization continues.

Mr. Sweeney: There has been an immense loss of jobs.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I could pretend that is going to stop or that it is going to be easy, but it is not. This process is going on everywhere. That is why we are talking about economic transformation, and the object of our exercise is to make sure that new jobs come along in other industries and that those industries rationalize and become more efficient so the number of closures is reduced.

Having said that, let me emphasize that there is nothing in those closures which indicates there is either an epidemic or anything structurally or fundamentally wrong with this economy.

RENT REVIEW

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Consumer and Commercial Relations is no doubt aware that according to reports, both the tenants' and landlords' groups withdrew this morning from phase 2 of the Thom commission hearings.

My question to the minister is this: What purpose does he now feel will be served by continuing? Obviously this hearing has been discredited by the major participants and they are not taking his commission seriously.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I think I share the underlying disappointments that there have been some tenants' and landlords' groups, not all by any stretch of the imagination, that have indicated they will not be taking part in phase 2. That is regrettable; it does not serve the process well.

As the honourable member will have read in Saturday's newspaper, the commissioner has indicated he still feels the process should go forward and he is going to deal with a number of essential matters that struck at some very important issues with respect to rent review and rent control.

I also understand that when he commenced his hearings, he indicated the present evidence being given will terminate in a short while and it is his intention to adjourn for a time. Perhaps as time goes on we will get a better idea of whether there is going to be a return to the commission by those who have indicated those views.

Mr. McClellan: How much time is enough time?

Mr. Rae: How much time does he need? It has been two years.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

3:10 p.m.

Mr. Peterson: Does the minister not agree that this process has been discredited substantially through a number of premature announcements by himself and others and through the lack of information conveyed in any kind of a public way?

I will just take the minister through the chronology of his own involvement in discussions in this House with respect to the Thom commission while people are waiting on tenterhooks trying to figure out what kind of shape the legislation will take in this province.

As of November 1983, it was reported that we were supposed to have a report at the earliest possible date, later that year or early in the new year. That was a year ago. On April 27, the minister indicated the report was being printed.

Less than three weeks later, he retracted that statement and said the report would be ready relatively soon.

In May, the minister said sections of the report were at the printer and he expected to release it by December. By the end of June, the story changed again. The minister indicated he would wait until all of the phase 1 report was in before recommending any changes to the Legislature.

Clearly, the whole process has been discredited. The minister has not been aware of the status of that report, where it was, what phase it was at and whether or not it was being printed. Today, a year or so after we expected some results, there still is nothing. Does the minister still feel this process has any credibility?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I do not think the real issue for the Leader of the Opposition is whether the process has credibility. It was a process that involved many people and the discussion of significant issues. Those who followed it clearly understood that it was a complex issue, one on which there are divided views in society.

The problem for the Leader of the Opposition is that the history of this government is one of continuing to refine rent review and its practice, administration and procedures, even over the past two years. That troubles the honourable member, because it is working; it is providing a degree of tenant protection that troubles him.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, if the process is working so well, why does the minister not just abolish the Thom commission, bring in any legislation that is necessary and get on with it? It has been a two-year circus. It is time to bring it to a close and get on with some good legislation. Why not just abolish the commission?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, it is clear that the opening mood of this session seems to be changing a little. The blue suit that the leader of the third party is wearing has not influenced his thoughtfulness on this issue.

It is also clear from the comments I heard during the process of the Thom commission review that it was a very thoughtful process. There will be a report issued and the government will give it consideration.

Mr. Rae: When?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I understand it will be available before the end of this month and will be released. We have no intention of delaying it.

I did not say, nor did I intend to imply, that the rent review system is perfect. Nothing is perfect, not even the honourable member. I have to tell him that. I know his wife may not agree with that,

but not even he is perfect. I say that with a great degree of humility.

We will continue to refine the rent review system as we have done in the past. We will continue to increase the staffing and to improve the procedures as required. I await the Thom commission's report and the government's consideration of that report.

Mr. Epp: Mr. Speaker, the minister is no doubt aware of his statement to the House on November 16, 1982, in which he indicated that the rents registry was a very important matter and that he gave high priority to it.

He indicated at that time: "I would like the commissioner to give early attention to steps that could be taken to permit the use of section 33 of the Residential Tenancies Act. This section provides for such a registry."

He went on to say, "In the expectation that we will be able to introduce comprehensive legislation no later than the fall of 1983, the proposed rent restraint bill will be sunsetted...."

Since the minister thought he would be in a position to bring in comprehensive legislation about a year ago, will he now stop dithering and bring in comprehensive legislation with respect to the establishment of a rents registry?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, I am awaiting the submission of a report from the royal commission inquiry, which the government will then consider and process.

Mr. Rae: Is the minister saying that a report will be ready for publication at the end of this month? Can he tell us when he received a copy of any interim report or any recent report from the Thom commission?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: The information I have at present, and I thought I had said it very clearly, is that the report is now at the printers. Towards the end of August or early September, a rough copy of it, prior to going to the printers, was forwarded to me by the commissioner. It has not been subjected to government scrutiny other than through my own ministry. When the report is tabled, it will be reviewed by the government and a process to review it established.

Mr. McClellan: You have had it since August.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. McClellan: What kind of game are you playing?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: If there is some implication that I have been withholding information, clearly

the member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan) and I know there were one or two—

Mr. Speaker: The member for Bellwoods did not have the floor. Pay no attention to his interjections.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Then I wish he would remember that.

Mr. Rae: I can understand why the minister is so touchy. He has had a report from the Thom commission since August and has not indicated that publicly. He has not indicated in any sense what the contents of the report are or what his government intends to do.

On November 16, 1982, the minister said he wanted interim reports without undue delay. He said the government wanted to act on his advice without undue delay, and I am quoting from his own words. He said he wanted interim reports, wanted to move, wanted a final report, but we are now only halfway through the entire process. We have yet to see the big picture from Mr. Thom.

How can the minister possibly justify this incredible delay? Why does he not just shut the commission down and get on with the legislation so many tenants are waiting for?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: It will come as no surprise to the leader of the third party that royal commission reports are tabled and then released, after which they are given consideration by the government through a variety of processes. That will happen with this report. The leader of the third party knows the personal commitment I have to continuing to refine rent review legislation in this province as needed.

Mr. Rae: At a snail's pace.

Mr. Peterson: When will he release this thing after all the false starts? The minister is, and I do not want to be uncharitable, very close to losing his credibility because of the various—shall I say?—false trails or bits of false information he has given us along the way.

As I understand the issue today, he is telling us he has had the report since August. He is studying that or censoring it; I do not know what he is doing with it. What is he hiding? Why can he not let that report from an independent commissioner come before this House for other people's scrutiny? Is he going to scrutinize it or change it before it becomes public? What is he up to?

Hon. Mr. Elgie: I take offence at that, as I am sure the commissioner would. He and I have had no discussions about anything to be changed, altered or anything. This is a rough draft, prior to its going back to him for proofreading, prior to its

going to the printers. I take personal offence at the suggestion that there would be any interference with him, as he should. The member should not get involved in that kind of nonsense.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, speaking of nonsense, can the minister explain to the House what conceivable excuse there is for his failure to make sure the report of the royal commission was released within a week or so of its receipt? He received this report, as he has just said, in August 1984 after breaking promises to have it produced in the summer of 1983, the fall of 1983, the late fall of 1983, the early winter of 1984, the late winter of 1984, the spring of 1984 and June 1984.

What kind of game is the minister playing? What conceivable excuse does he have for failing to make sure this report was released to the public? Now there is to be no election, maybe he can release it.

3:20 p.m.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Mr. Speaker, perhaps to change the tenor of this discussion, I want it very clearly understood I had indicated to members of the press that prior to any decision about an election that report would be released without delay. There has never been any deception about that.

When there was an error on my part last spring, I apologized for it. I really did. I did not understand that it had not gone to the printers. If the honourable member cannot accept that, I understand that, because he has a different temperament and a different mood from others of us. He tends to be a little—is “aggressive” the word I am looking for, or “hostile”? I do not know which word one would use, but he certainly has a different attitude from some others when they get into a discussion about things.

I want it made very clear that this report, when I receive it, will be prepared, tabled and released for this House and for the public to consider. There is going to be nothing secret or hidden about it, and fundamentally I think the member knows that.

Mr. McClellan: No, I do not know that at all.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Then you do not know very much.

Mr. Rae: It seems clear that in addition to being a lifetime benchler, Mr. Thom has now been appointed by the government to be a lifetime royal commissioner. I am not sure that is what the tenants of Ontario expected on Novem-

ber 16, 1982, when the minister made his statement.

Hon. Mr. Elgie: Is that a question?

Mr. Rae: No, that is just a comment.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

PLANT SHUTDOWNS

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, my question is to the Minister of Industry and Trade. The minister made some very fine remarks recently at a conference that was sponsored by the Premier. He said, "The key to this breakthrough," and he is talking about openness and participation in the work place, "is to drop once and for all the notion that labour is a commodity to be bought and sold in the marketplace," words that no member of this House, I suspect, could possibly disagree with.

Given the fact that the most important investment the workers of this province have is their jobs, precisely what steps is he taking? In the light of the layoffs that have occurred, which have already been discussed with the Treasurer and the Minister of Labour, precisely what steps is he taking to ensure that the workers at Alcan, at Wabasso, at Black and Decker, at Burns and at Massey-Ferguson are no longer going to be treated like commodities? It is clear that those companies are treating those workers like commodities and his government is powerless to do anything about it.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, every time there is a closure I think we are as concerned about it as the honourable member is. What I have to keep my eye on, though, is what is happening overall, what the net change is and what direction employment is following in the province. I would say that in the last year we have seen half a million people return to jobs and probably more inquiries and, indeed, more decisions to make investments in Ontario than we have seen for quite a while.

This in no way overcomes the concern I was trying to express that day, and the concern was that we have two opposite poles when it comes to attitudes towards jobs. It seems to me that we have polarized our approach and that the time has come when we should undo that, when we should have confidence that labour should talk to management and vice versa, that management should be making investments in more productive equipment, because only with more productive equipment, not more productive people, can we make more secure the jobs we sometimes lose.

Those jobs at Wabasso were lost in large measure to other countries of the world; I think the member knows that. They were lost to nations that to some degree were dumping products or selling products, depending on one's definition, into our country and getting around the bilateral agreements the feds had made with a number of countries in the world. It is very hard to protect ourselves against nations that have lower-cost labour; but I think we can, and we have proved we can, improve the efficiency of Ontario firms by a judicious mixture of investment, retraining and trust.

Mr. Rae: I was asking the minister in all sincerity, because I wanted to know whether he really was speaking to the problem. In the press reports after the Massey-Ferguson layoff it was reported that one worker, Mr. Nick Kurk, has been laid off 54 times by that one company since 1950.

The Treasurer has travelled widely in the world; in fact, he has been travelling extremely widely recently. The Minister of Industry and Trade has travelled. I am sorry, I cannot think of him without thinking of that plaid jacket, but I will try. As the minister has travelled across the world, he knows there are a great many countries with which Canada is competing—West Germany and Japan, to mention two—that would never for an instant allow a worker to be laid off 54 times in 34 years by a company the size of Massey-Ferguson.

That is the real question; that is the real issue. What is the government going to do to ensure that the workers in this province are treated with some respect, even at the time of a downturn, even at a time of high competition? We all recognize the difficulties. The question is, who is going to share the benefits and who is going to share the burdens? What is the government going to do to ensure that the young Nick Kurks who are starting work today will not be laid off 54, 55, 60 and 100 times before they retire? What is the minister going to do about that?

Hon. F. S. Miller: In the case of Massey-Ferguson, nothing outside of a market change will help. But let me look at those countries to which I do travel—

Mr. Rae: That is not true. You could handle layoffs differently.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. F. S. Miller: Let me tell the honourable member that there are people in all of those countries who would give their eye-teeth to be in our country and I meet them every time I go

there. Every time I travel around this world, I realize how lucky we are in this nation. The member can dwell upon all the faults we have, but I want to tell him that the people in those countries think this is the place to be.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, I regret that the minister said nothing could be done about the situation pertaining to Massey-Ferguson. Would the minister not agree that Ontario's farm policies have left us behind all of the other farmers in Canada and that if we had any leadership in the agricultural policy area, any support for the minister in the cabinet, we would have programs that would leave some money in the pockets of our farmers so they could buy some combines, some tractors and some farm equipment, and make employment in Brantford and Toronto for Massey-Ferguson and the other farm equipment manufacturers?

Hon. F. S. Miller: Mr. Speaker, my colleague will probably check the record and recognize that I did not say the words he alleged I said a moment ago. He would also be aware, living near Brantford as he has for some time, that the markets for those Brantford machines are not Ontario; they are in the United States, they are in Europe, they are in South Africa and they are all around the world, so let him not try to lay it on us.

Mr. Rae: It is nice to hear from the minister that he does not think Ontario farmers need to be able to buy our agricultural machinery. It has to be the height of absurdity—

Mr. Nixon: What kind of a response is this?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Rae: —for a minister who has some feeling for what is going on in this province to make that kind of a remark.

I would like to come back to the minister and simply ask him this: he gave a speech at this conference, which was duly reported in all the newspapers, saying there was going to be a new era in relations between workers and managers in Ontario. That was the headline. Just after he gave that speech, we had layoff after layoff announced by the large companies in this province. So we see the words from the minister were just that—sheer, empty rhetoric; sheer, empty words without any meaning whatsoever in terms of job security.

What specific steps does the minister intend to take to protect the most important investment the workers in this province have: their jobs? I am not talking about investors in the United States, or Germany or anywhere else; I am talking about

Ontario investors who have an investment in their jobs. That is their most important investment. What is the minister doing to protect that investment?

Hon. F. S. Miller: If my friend recalls the most recent budget, the Treasurer did say he was giving my ministry a \$30-million fund to help one of our very important sectors, the auto parts sector, to become more competitive and to make sure jobs stayed in Ontario. That program is in its final stages of preparation and should be ready very soon.

I think the principles can be applied further, and frankly there are lots of things that can be done, providing members realize one of the most efficient uses of capital is not necessarily in having corporations pay taxes, but reinvesting it in the plant and machinery which protects jobs for the workers.

DISEASE RATES AND POLLUTION

Mr. Bradley: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. As the minister will be aware by now, a new study conducted by the Department of National Health and Welfare has produced some rather alarming results which confirm what many of us in the Niagara Peninsula have felt was probably the case for a number of years, that the rate of deaths from certain kinds of cancers has been shown to be significantly above that of the provincial level.

In view of this latest alarming report, is the minister prepared to make a promise in the House today that he will provide funds immediately for an epidemiological study to determine the association between the disease rates found in the just-released study and contaminants in the regional environment, and that he will provide funds for the hiring of a full-time epidemiologist for the Niagara regional health services department to conduct research into the links between environmentally related diseases and pollutants in our part of the province?

3:30 p.m.

The minister would be aware this has caused considerable alarm, not just recently but for some period of time, but that alarm has been increased by the most recent report which hit the headlines in the last couple of weeks.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, it is particularly timely for the honourable member to raise that question with me, in so far as my colleague the member for Brock (Mr. Welch) met with me this morning for about an hour on that specific issue. Obviously, it is a matter of concern to me. It is clearly a matter of concern to him, as it is to

the member and others, not only in that area but anywhere in the province where there is some suggestion of a particular epidemiology in a community.

Although I have not yet had a chance to review the report personally, it is being reviewed by staff in my ministry. In commenting at this point, I emphasize it is my understanding that the news report on the contents of the report is perhaps not fully balanced in that there are actually some rather positive things that can be drawn from the report which ought to be of some reassurance to people in the Niagara area. Nevertheless, I am not suggesting it ought not to be treated very seriously.

As soon as we have had a chance to finish the review of the report, and I hope that will not be a protracted exercise, it is my intention to discuss or have my senior staff discuss the matter with the medical officer of health in the area with a view to looking at an appropriate course of action with respect to studying the epidemiology that is suggested to determine what an appropriate and responsible course of action might be.

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, I am certain the minister understands that this only confirms the study of the same kind which was done on the United States side in the immediate area of the Niagara frontier.

Will the minister not agree that the results of that study in the US and the one that has now been made by the federal government emphasize the need for the government of Ontario, through the Ministry of the Environment as well as his ministry, to become much more aggressive in eliminating pollution sources in Ontario and in encouraging US authorities to conduct a massive cleanup of sources of pollution on the American side of the border, and in that way address ourselves to treating the cause rather than waiting for these situations to develop?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I think any such report invites fairly careful assessment before one draws conclusions from it, in that one cannot jump to a conclusion as to what the cause might be. The purpose of pursuing an epidemiological study is to see if there is any causal relationship that can be implied or established.

I am not familiar in any detail with the American study to which the member refers, but I hope the reports that have been in the press in the community which the member, his colleague and my colleague represent have made it clear that the type of illness that has been identified is not the type one would anticipate, given our long-standing concern about the Niagara River.

It would seem that if there is any environmentally related effect, something other than water would be contributing to the kind of cancer that is being cited.

The report also has to be looked at carefully in terms of the scope of the data that have been looked at to date to make sure the conclusions applied are accurate. I will give the member this assurance and I shall not back down from this assurance: we will move without delay to pursue whatever the appropriate course of action might be.

Subject to further information and advice, I am willing to assume at this point that is likely to indicate an epidemiological study, and see what that can provide us with by way of information. Then we can determine whether there are other specific actions that may be taken by me, by my colleague the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) or by the government in some way collectively. We are not going to let that suggestion lie unnoticed or unattended to.

Mr. Wildman: Mr. Speaker, in view of the comments the minister has made and without prejudging the results of any epidemiological study, is he prepared to consult with the Minister of the Environment to ensure that proper methods are used with respect to storing and spraying agricultural pesticides and herbicides in the Niagara Peninsula in order to ensure that the use of these kinds of agricultural chemicals may not in any way be contributing to the overall effects we have seen in this recent study?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, knowing something of the practices of my colleague's ministry, it is my belief and understanding that measures have already been taken to ensure the appropriate and safe storage of any potentially dangerous chemicals.

If there is any particular information the member may have that he would like my colleague to review, I am sure he would be quite happy to do that. I do not think it is my place to assume the minister is other than totally vigilant at the moment. Knowing the gentleman, I am confident he is, and I am sure the staff of his ministry is as well.

I would ask that no one confuse the purpose of an epidemiological study. If the indications from the report are correct, it seems to me this is the type of situation in which an epidemiological study would be indicated if there is an indication of a particular set of symptoms whose cause must be determined. We are very often asked to do epidemiological studies when there is no indica-

tion of illness. This is the reverse and probably a correct situation.

EXTRA BILLING

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, it has now been three months, going on four months, since the Canada Health Act penalties came into effect. I wonder whether the Minister of Health could inform the House today of his response on extra billing? If he cannot tell us today, when is he going to respond to the Canada Health Act and either outlaw extra billing or run away from the doctors and maintain it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, there is no change in my position from the discussions we had earlier on that subject. I have been continuing to examine the impact of the act. There are holdbacks in effect, not penalties yet. If the circumstances have not changed in three years' time, we will know whether there is a penalty to be imposed.

I would want to have some discussions with our new government at the national level. I want to make it clear this would not be with a view to trying to exact unreasonable concessions, but to explore its interpretation of some of the regulations upon which the previous government had placed a very restrictive interpretation.

Before we make a decision, it is important to know precisely what it is we are deciding upon. I can assure the honourable member of something he is already aware of: with the reputation for sensitivity of this government to the people of Ontario, their needs and particularly their interest in a high-quality and universally accessible health care system, our decision will be taken with great care and reflect all that sensitivity.

3:40 p.m.

Mr. Cooke: The minister refuses to make a decision on this matter. He has said in the past he would respond to the act and we were expecting some kind of statement. Perhaps what has held up his response to the Canada Health Act is that we are not now going to be having an election.

Until this point, about \$15 million has been held back by the federal government because this government refuses to outlaw extra billing. At the same time, the government says it cannot afford a program of home care for the frail elderly, the extension of the assistive devices program or northern health care transportation. How can the minister justify holding back on these programs and saying he cannot afford them, while at the same time he is foregoing at this point \$15 million in federal transfers?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, the way this question was formulated reflects not only a less than complete understanding of the federal legislation, but also a less than desirable understanding on the part of the critic of what I have said with respect to the programs he has made reference to.

I have not said, to the best of my recollection, that any of the programs he has referred to were being held up because of a lack of resources. That is not the case, although in the detailed designing of any program resources have to be taken into consideration.

What he keeps referring to as a penalty on the part of the federal government is not at this stage a penalty at all; it is merely a holdback. Those resources are still readily available to us. If we comply, the question to know for sure is what the federal government might expect of us by way of compliance in order to have access to those funds.

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Conway: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Colleges and Universities. Can the minister report to this House on the current state of negotiations between the Ontario Public Service Employees Union local representing the 7,600 community college teachers and the Council of Regents representing the management of the Ontario community college system, in view of the fact that we are now eight days away from a strike date that would have a disastrous impact on the 120,000 full-time and 600,000 part-time and evening students in the community college system?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it would be unfair to have Hansard record that such a disruption would directly affect the education of part-time students within the college system. That is not likely so for the full number, since many of those who are attending in that way are being taught by sessional teachers who are not members of the bargaining unit.

Mr. Bradley: Will they cross the picket line?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: They have done in the past, but I do not know whether that would happen.

It is my understanding that both parties to these negotiations have indicated they would be willing to begin to talk again in the very near future. I am aware that the mediator who has been appointed by the College Relations Commission has indicated that when he feels this

willingness can be translated into positive action, such a meeting will be held.

Mr. Conway: Is the minister satisfied that Mr. Ian McArdle, the negotiator for the Council of Regents, is performing in an appropriate and professional fashion on behalf of the management team? Second, does the minister intend any personal action or intervention to encourage a proper climate for the resolution of this grave difficulty on or before the strike date a week tomorrow?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I have no information whatever that would lead me to believe there has been any question of the professionalism or the quality of the activity that is being pursued by Mr. Ian McArdle in this situation. I have no indication that this is a matter of concern, as far as the bargaining unit of the trade union goes at any rate.

As a matter of fact, I have already met with the executive committee of that trade union some eight or 10 weeks ago at its request to talk about certain matters that were of concern to it, and I have no further intention at this point. I shall do whatever is best to resolve the issue when required to.

Mr. Cureatz: Mr. Speaker, in view of the fact that the minister and her cabinet colleagues are always concerned about youth employment, does she not think this would be a very serious situation if all those teachers and instructors wound up on strike? Would she not consider back-to-work legislation?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Mr. Speaker, it has always been my experience that the best agreements are those which are negotiated between the parties. It is my strong belief that is precisely what should happen in this situation as well.

AMATEUR HOCKEY

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Tourism and Recreation. The minister is aware that there were 48 spinal injuries in the last eight years. Of those 48 spinal injuries, at the date the survey was taken, 25 young men were confined to wheelchairs as a result of hockey. Since that time there have been two more.

Is the minister aware that the Canadian Amateur Hockey Association has now introduced a new rule? A player gets a two-minute penalty for striking someone from behind. I might say that of those who are confined to wheelchairs, 14 were struck from behind. Now that the CAHA has introduced a new rule—if a player hits someone from behind, he receives a

two-minute penalty, and if he injures the hockey player, he gets a five-minute major—would the government go on record and indicate to the hockey establishment that is not good enough, that there should be a five-minute major for hitting someone from behind and that if a player hurts another youngster, he is suspended?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, as the member for Sudbury East knows very well, because he has been very much involved in this whole question of violence in hockey and has done a study that we have looked at with considerable interest, it really in all likelihood would be very inappropriate for this government to second-guess the CAHA with respect to specific rules and regulations, for example, to impose a five-minute penalty instead of a two-minute penalty for this kind of an infraction or the other kind of infraction.

That is not to say we are not very much concerned about this continuing question of the safety of our amateur players. We certainly have been looking at this. We are looking in a more comprehensive way at how the hockey association might learn and improve, governing itself better than it has, and how it might reduce the still unacceptably large incidence of very serious injuries. I do not debate the statistics at all; they are serious injuries. We are looking at that. We are working with the sports science people and with the sports medicine people.

Quite frankly, I could not even imagine how we could introduce legislation here to say they have to impose a five-minute penalty instead of a two-minute penalty for hitting from behind or whatever. Quite apart from that, what we do want to do is work out with the governing bodies in hockey some kind of a better policing mechanism that they set up and that they have some control over rather than us. We are working at that very hard. We have been working at it over the summer and we are going to continue. Frankly, I am optimistic that in the course of the next several weeks we will have some announcement to make about a special kind of an instrument, some kind of body that will be set up to look after these matters.

Certainly, I fully appreciate the concern the member for Sudbury East has expressed and that he has taken on this whole question. He is not alone in his concern.

3:50 p.m.

Mr. Martel: Since we pay as a society \$1 million for each quadriplegic, since we know that 14 of those young people who are quadriplegic today were struck from behind and since we also

know from Manitoba that since that rule was imposed they have reduced the accident insurance claims by 30 per cent for serious accidents, surely we cannot hide—and I am not suggesting legislation—behind the fence, so to speak, any longer when we are not only paying the bills, but there is tragedy for the kids.

As a society we cannot allow that to happen any more. I want to know where this magnificent body is that still is not in place—the last one did not cover half the kids in hockey—and what we are going to do to say to the hockey moguls, “We have had enough and as a society we will not tolerate it any longer.” When are we going to have the courage to do that?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: As I indicated before, we are very actively engaged in setting up this kind of policing instrument. I say again that I frankly cannot see how a Legislature such as ours can set the rules as to how hockey should be played. I can appreciate that there are social and economic tragedies when these accidents occur. We have spent a lot of time and a lot of money trying to get hockey to appreciate better the dangers that are involved and we have done so in many different ways.

I must admit that I am very close to the member for Sudbury East in his feelings about the governing bodies in hockey, but I stop clearly and well short of having this government send in a referee-in-chief or someone who is going to control the game. However, the member can be sure that we will take the necessary steps to put in place a proper body that will reduce the incidence of violence in this game.

Mr. Newman: Mr. Speaker, I speak as one who has been involved in athletic endeavours for a number of years both as an active participant and as a coach. Would the minister not consider requiring the sports governing bodies to set up a computerized system whereby they can keep records on each of those athletes and have everything tabulated in such a fashion that he could have a complete record indicating the frequency of the injuries individuals have suffered so that we could, at a given time, come along and bar an individual from competing because of the cumulative effect of the injuries he has suffered?

Hon. Mr. Baetz: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to say that, partly as a result of a financial grant from this government on a number of occasions, precisely that kind of monitoring is already being carried out. It is being carried out at Sunnybrook Medical Centre and at the University of Waterloo. As time goes on, they are developing some

profiles and trying to analyse precisely what creates the injuries. This kind of work is going on and it is going on because of financial assistance and moral support from this government.

USE OF LANDFILL SITE

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment, the so-called paper tiger. He will be aware of the Runnymede development at Victoria Park Avenue and Gerrard Street. With respect to that development, my question is about his decision not to hold public meetings so that citizens could make some suggestions as to the development of that shopping centre on a former landfill site.

Can the minister tell us at this time what his ministry is so concerned about that, as a condition to the issuance of the licence or approvals by his ministry to Runnymede, it requires that Runnymede indemnify the ministry for any explosions or whatever that may take place in future, and can he tell us whether this is the type of agreement his ministry requires of a developer when it is unsure of the facts on which the proponent is making application for approvals?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, we were quite assured of the facts in that particular instance. We worked with Scarborough with respect to the development. It was a very co-operative undertaking where the city proposed the development in conjunction with the proponent and worked co-operatively with my ministry.

I can assure the member we knew what the conditions of the soil were. We knew what difficulties there were. If the honourable member is suggesting we have some kind of undertaking between the developer—in this particular instance, Runnymede—and my ministry for an infinite protective clause, there is no such thing that would cover that kind of thing.

Mr. Elston: It is registered under the title.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: It cannot protect it for ever, though. We do have certain undertakings that my ministry entered into in conjunction with the municipality, but we do not have an infinite protection clause in the agreement.

PETITION

COMMUNITY COLLEGE LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, I have a petition to present to the House. It is to the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor and the

Legislative Assembly of Ontario and it reads in part:

"We, the undersigned, beg leave to petition the parliament of Ontario as follows:

"We, as students, urge the parties involved in the present faculty negotiations to consider the consequences to our futures as consumers of this service in the event of a strike."

This petition is signed by 2,245 people at Fanshawe College. There are some students in the social science department in particular who have worked hard to gather these names. I would like to read into the record their names as signers of the petition: Ginette Houle, Bill Bancroft, Mark Grant, Sharon Stiles and Sandra Wilson. Of course, these people worked in concert with the president of the student council, Ron Kirschener.

REPORTS

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Barlow from the standing committee on resources development presented the following report and moved its adoption:

Your committee begs to report the following bill with certain amendments: Bill 101, An Act to amend the Workers' Compensation Act.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for committee of the whole House.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE OMBUDSMAN

Mr. Van Horne from the select committee on the Ombudsman reported the following resolution:

Resolved that supply in the following amount and to defray the expenses of the Office of the Ombudsman be granted to Her Majesty for the fiscal year ending March 31, 1985:

Office of the Ombudsman program,
\$5,596,000.

MOTION

PRIVATE MEMBERS' PUBLIC BUSINESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that Mr. Di Santo and Mr. Breaugh exchange positions in the order of preference for private members' public business and that the requirement for notice as provided in standing order 64(h) be waived.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, this means that Mr. Di Santo's resolution will be debated this Thursday rather than that of Mr. Breaugh as was indicated in the order of preference.

Motion agreed to.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, before the orders of the day, I thought I should indicate to the House that we will be adjourning at six o'clock today rather than at 10:30. There will be no meeting tonight of the standing committee on resources development to consider estimates.

4 p.m.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

OFF-ROAD VEHICLES AMENDMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Snow moved second reading of Bill 43, An Act to amend the Off-Road Vehicles Act.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, this short bill has been in Orders and Notices since earlier in the year. We did not get time to deal with it prior to the summer recess.

There are two main objectives to the bill. One is to redefine or more clearly define the word "highway" as it relates to off-road vehicles. The second important part of the bill is that persons under the age of 12 years would be allowed to drive such vehicles not only on land occupied by the vehicle owner but also, under the close supervision of an adult, on other lands. Those are the two amendments we have before the House today.

Mr. Riddell: Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party to support Bill 43 and to review briefly the process that led to this amendment.

On June 7, 1983, the government introduced for first reading Bill 61, An Act to regulate Off-Road Vehicles. The vehicles intended to be covered by the act included trail bikes and similar all-terrain vehicles but not four-wheel vehicles. The general theme of the act is to require all owners of off-road vehicles to register their vehicles.

During committee consideration of Bill 61, on October 18, 1983, my colleague the former member for Prescott-Russell, now a very distinguished member of the House of Commons, moved an amendment to section 3 of the bill to ensure that no person under a minimum age of 14 years shall drive an off-road vehicle. This prohibition excluded persons driving on the land of which the owner of the vehicle is the occupier. Section 4 of Bill 61 prohibited persons under the age of 12 years from operating an off-road vehicle except on land of which the owner of the vehicle is the occupier.

At the time Bill 61 was debated in committee and the foregoing concerns about age were

expressed, the minister indicated he would consult with interested parties during the following few months and, if necessary, adjust the new sections by amending Bill 61.

I was concerned about section 4 of Bill 61 and raised my objections with the minister regarding the perhaps inadvertent effect of the bill of preventing young persons from operating an off-road vehicle in supervised motocross racing.

As I indicated to the minister at the time I was expressing my concern, a privately owned recreational business in my riding known as Hully Gully has for some time now been operating a closed-course racetrack that specializes in motocross and all-terrain vehicle racing. Consequently, it has participants under the age of 12 years operating off-road vehicles in the various races. As I indicated to the minister, all the participants in these well-supervised race-tracks must wear the prescribed approved helmets and protective gear, and if they are minors they may only compete with the written consent of their parents or guardians.

For more than 10 years, Hully Gully has been developing and training racers for motocross and other forms of off-road motor sports and it has always maintained the highest standards of safety. I know that for a fact because I attend many of the motocross races and I know how well supervised they are at Hully Gully. Since Hully Gully is a closed race course and rigidly controlled and participants compete of their own free will for enjoyment, I felt Hully Gully and other similar supervised racetracks should be given an exemption to section 4 of Bill 61. This would allow use of off-road vehicles in a safe, controlled area with all the necessary provisions made for the operator's wellbeing.

I congratulate and commend the minister for taking my concerns into consideration. I must say I think perhaps other concerns were expressed by the owners of some of the recreational parks. The minister did take our concerns into consideration, and he introduced Bill 43 in April 1984, making relatively minor changes to three sections of the act, the most important one being section 4 concerning the minimum age of drivers. We now have a bill which reads as follows:

"4(1) No owner of an off-road vehicle shall permit a child under the age of 12 to drive the vehicle.

"(2) Subsection 1 does not apply where the child is driving the vehicle,

"(a) on land occupied by the vehicle owner; or

"(b) under the close supervision of an adult."

The minister has met the concerns and the requests of the owners of the recreational parks, and they are most happy that the minister has seen fit to bring in the amendments that were needed to rectify this situation.

I must say the Association of Municipalities of Ontario also responded to the minister's bill and recommended that any legislation governing motorized off-road vehicles apply to all classes of motorized off-road recreational vehicles; that vehicles used for off-road maintenance purposes or for a purpose ancillary to farm operations be exempt from the provisions of the legislation; and that any exempt vehicle used for a purpose other than that on which the exemption was based be subject to the provisions of the legislation.

I think AMO's concern and our concern pertain to the young farm boy who is requested by his father to assist with the work around the farm and often has to take an off-road vehicle from one farm to another to do the chores. I still have a little concern in that regard. Any young person under the age of 12, unless he is able to cross the farm land to get from one farm to the other in an off-road vehicle, may be prevented under this bill from helping his father out with the daily chores.

As the minister well knows, many of the farmers are most reliant on their sons and daughters to help with the farming operation, particularly if the farmer has had to look for another source of income to meet with his very heavy obligations in connection with his farm business. A lot of the farmers are away during the day working at some other job. When the young son or young daughter comes home from school, very often he or she will jump on to one of these all-terrain vehicles, or off-road vehicles as they are referred to in this bill. They may travel down the side of the road to get from one farm to the other to do the chores. Under this bill, that type of practice would have to stop.

4:10 p.m.

That was one of the concerns AMO had, and it remains a concern of mine, although I am not too sure how many young people under the age of 12 are actually involved in some of the heavy work in connection with doing the daily chores on the farm. Perhaps the minister can comment on that and tell me if this bill is going to prohibit young people under the age of 12 from travelling from one farm to the other to do the chores for father so they will be done when father comes home from his other job.

The proposed changes in Bill 43 do not substantially change the child protection thrust of

section 4. The clause requiring the close supervision of children under 12 years appears adequate. It must be said that no one really knows what an appropriate age is and, in the final analysis, individual adults may exercise common sense.

It also should be pointed out that there is some ambiguity and conflict among sections 3, 4 and 5 of the act. It is not clear whether a person without a permit issued under section 5 is allowed to drive an off-road vehicle. Subsection 3(1) states: "No person shall drive an off-road vehicle except under the authority of a permit..." Section 5 requires that a permit holder shall be at least 16 years of age. Perhaps "under the authority" includes the permission of the owner and permit holder, and the minister might give some clarification in connection with this matter.

With those few comments, I once again want to congratulate and commend the minister for listening to the concerns that were expressed when the bill was debated in the House and in committee and when he received comments from people who were operating these recreational parks and closely supervising the races in which eight-year-olds and 10-year-olds participate and, I must say, operate a vehicle as well as many of the adults.

I invite the minister, if he has some free time on his hands, to come to the good county of Huron, to come to Hully Gully—

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am going there on Friday.

Mr. Riddell: Good; I am glad to hear it. I do not think he will be seeing a motocross race when he comes, but if he has not been to a motocross race and if he wants a good afternoon's entertainment, he should just come to Huron, to Hully Gully, and I can assure him he will see the finest entertainment. If I know he is coming, I will be there; we may even go out for dinner afterwards and find some other—

Mr. Samis: Careful.

Mr. Riddell: Once again I thank the minister very much for listening to the concerns we expressed and for bringing in this amendment, which greatly concerns many people.

Mr. Samis: Mr. Speaker, we on this side will be supporting the bill as well. I just want to preface my remarks by saying first of all that it is good to see the minister back here after his battle with the British press. He seems to be rather unscathed. I would venture the opinion that he is almost a victim of the sensationalist tabloids over there, which obviously must be totally bored with what they are doing to conjure up a major

campaign against our poor, friendly—I would not say "helpless"—victimized member for Oakville.

Second, it is always nice to see a bill introduced by somebody who is not going to be a candidate for the leadership. I am sure the minister will announce very soon that he will not be a candidate.

Third, the change in the opposition side here is remarkable. I could never conceive of the possibility of the former transportation critic of the Liberal Party suggesting that he go out to dinner with the minister, and I could hardly conceive of the minister accepting such an invitation from the former critic.

Fourth, to show members how dramatically things can change, I am sure the minister deplores the absence of the former Liberal transportation critic here and the spice he injected into the debates, personal and otherwise, about transportation matters. But we do recall rather vividly in our debate on the previous bill how that member and the former member for Prescott-Russell had threatened virtually to filibuster on the bill in opposition to what the minister was seeking. So obviously September 4 has brought a few changes in this place as well as in Ottawa.

We on this side see the bill as a compromise. Obviously the minister has responded to the flak he has received during the past year on the previous bill; obviously there has been a very effective lobbying campaign. We on this side have taken the position that we are prepared to try this compromise out because the other one was rather exclusive. This one does allow for children under parental or adult supervision, and we are prepared to give that a run. We hope the minister will take a look at this a year from now to see how it works out, whether it is in parks or private situations.

I again call to the minister's attention the whole question of safety training and education in the use of these vehicles. I would like him to amplify what his ministry is doing to try to instil some sense of safety and training by either the adults or the children, what sort of publicity campaign or educational campaign his ministry has, and whether he has had any discussions with the manufacturers of these vehicles as to whether they are taking any responsibility for educating the public in terms of the proper use of those vehicles and the safety aspects.

I also suspect the passage of this bill will have implications on the whole question of insurance rates for the vehicles, which is a very murky area and has been for the past year.

I ask the minister to address these three points in his closing remarks. Beyond that, we will support the bill.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I would like to make a few comments on Bill 43.

I have to agree with the member for Cornwall (Mr. Samis) that the minister may have been victimized by the press, but not over the allegation that he touched the small of the back of the Queen and the elbow. It was not the British press, but the Toronto Globe and Mail and the Windsor Star, writing all these stories. I believe the minister. If he says he did not touch the Queen's elbow, I want to say—

Mr. Nixon: He did not say that. He said, "Where is the picture?"

Mr. Mancini: I see. That is quite different. I thought he had actually stated that he did not touch the Queen's elbow, and I was ready to believe the minister.

I have been getting a lot of inquiries concerning the Off-Road Vehicles Act, and actually a lot of complaints. Some of the complaints have been rectified by this amendment, Bill 43, but there are other areas of complaint that the minister should be aware of, particularly in the cost of insurance for off-road vehicles.

The minister will know, because I believe he owns a farm, that prior to the original Off-Road Vehicles Act, when one bought insurance for a farm the off-road vehicles were covered under the insurance policy in a general way and one did not have to specifically buy insurance for those really neat three-wheelers the farmers are using. They are advertised on television. A gentleman farmer is seen jumping on his three-wheeled motorcycle. He is telling his wife he is going to work out in the field, but actually he has a fishing rod and a pail hooked up near the side of the machine, and we all know what he is going to do. That is just something of an aside.

Vehicles such as the one just described were originally covered by general insurance policies and the farmers did not have to pay any extra money. Now, because of the original bill and because nothing has been done about this matter in Bill 43, farmers and others are still going to have to buy separate insurance policies for these off-road vehicles—this is the way it was explained to me by people in the insurance business—and they are being charged outrageous prices. For example, I am told it is not uncommon for a person to have to pay \$130 or \$140 to insure an off-road vehicle just because of the government regulations.

4:20 p.m.

I have also been visited by people who are in the off-road vehicle business, and the original legislation—and it has not been addressed by Bill 43—has had a detrimental effect on their business, because once a father brings in his daughter or son to a place of business where they are going to buy an off-road vehicle, the person selling the vehicle informs the purchaser or the person he thinks will be a purchaser that he must have insurance. The current rates are now around \$130.

The purchaser finds these things outrageous. As a matter of fact, so do I. I think \$30 or \$40 would be more than enough to properly insure these types of vehicles.

If we look at snowmobiles, some are worth \$3,000, \$4,000 or \$5,000 and I guess they can weigh into the thousands of pounds because they are very heavy pieces of equipment. When we compare the snowmobiles to the off-road vehicles, we have a much more expensive piece of equipment, a heavier piece of equipment, and we find the insurance rates are pretty well the same.

I want to say to the minister that we are imposing an additional cost on the farmers they may or may not be able to bear at this time. We are imposing an additional cost on the young people who wish to have off-road vehicles purchased for them and who wish to use these vehicles for their leisure and enjoyment. We are also hurting the off-road vehicle business.

I am sure the minister has heard the same argument I have put forward today and I am sure he has heard it personally. I am told his riding is quite wealthy. Is the minister's riding the wealthiest in Ontario, or Canada, still?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I would not know.

Mr. Mancini: Anyway, I am sure there are just hundreds of off-road vehicles in the minister's constituency and I am also sure that he—

Mr. Nixon: His constituency fund is the biggest.

Mr. Mancini: Yes. Is he running for something?

Mr. Nixon: No; he just likes to have lots of money on hand.

Mr. Mancini: Just business as usual; he likes to keep it business as usual.

Anyway, I am sure the minister has also received letters about these matters. I was hoping we would address this problem in Bill 43. Maybe this is not the right bill to address that problem,

but it is a problem and I think we should deal with it.

The off-road vehicle business employs people in the manufacturing end, the sales end and the service end; there is no reason why we should take advantage of the general public, or have the insurance companies take advantage of the general public, just because under regulations made by the government they are now forced to submit to all of these things that were required in the original act.

With those few comments, I will take my seat and hope the minister will have a response later on.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I am very glad the minister brought in off-road vehicle legislation to regulate off-road vehicles. There certainly are potential dangers in their operation, both for the users and the people in the area.

When the legislation went through last year, there was considerable discussion about whether there should be an age limit for off-road operation of small motorcycles, trail bikes and so on. I remember the debate ranged from whether it should be 14 years or 12 years or whether we should follow the snowmobile legislation where there is no age limit if the operation of snowmobiles is off-road, on the property of the owner of the vehicle or if it is on other people's private property with their permission. The compromise worked out in the bill was to put the age at 12.

I have one constituent who has a child who was learning to operate this kind of vehicle from the age of eight. He certainly felt his child was quite competent to operate such a vehicle off-road and he should be entitled to, if he wished to do it. He made the point that his youngster was very interested in the kind of competitions these vehicles engage in and that the younger one starts in most competitive sports the more likely one will develop the kind of skills needed to become a champion.

He also felt that when his child had started at that age he was learning good, responsible driving habits from a very young age when he was perhaps more impressionable than if he was starting to learn at the age of 12 and over. His arguments impressed me that there was a good case for allowing children under 12 to operate such vehicles as long as they were supervised closely by either a parent or an adult. That is in the amendment the minister has brought in.

I will commend the minister for bringing in an amendment to a section of the bill that appeared to concern a lot of people when it went through in

its original form and for responding to their concerns. I understand there was a petition with more than 2,000 signatures from the Toronto area asking for the introduction of Bill 43. The fact that the minister did respond indicates that he apparently does listen to constituents when they express concerns and express opinions.

If they were irresponsible opinions, of course, I would not expect him to respond but, from the arguments of my constituent and those of the petitioners, it seems there is a good case for allowing children under 12 to operate these vehicles as long as they are under close supervision.

I submit that this kind of amendment will encourage good, responsible driving habits in those youngsters. They will learn at an early age how to handle those vehicles. I hope the parents will see that they do not start off driving the largest ones and the ones that can go 40 miles an hour. I am sure they will bring them along gradually on the smaller vehicles and teach them good driving habits before they move up to the larger and faster vehicles.

Along with my colleague the member for Cornwall, I will support the bill and our caucus will also be supporting it. We think it is a useful amendment and I am glad the House came back to put this through this year.

Hon. Mr. Snow: Mr. Speaker, I have a few brief comments in response to the honourable members. I thank them for their input and support for these amendments. Certainly these amendments have been drafted, as I said we would do when the original bill was passed, as a result of considering input over the period of a year. We have had a considerable amount of such input, as has been mentioned here, by way of petitions, letters and meetings with people involved in the operation of these small off-road vehicles. We have responded to their needs.

Since this bill has been introduced outlining the amendments and since we have distributed that to those who had concerns, to my knowledge we have not had any requests for further amendments. It seems these amendments have satisfied all the people who had those kinds of concerns.

My friend the member for Cornwall mentioned the annual review. As with all legislation, we are continuously reviewing this legislation. If other aspects come up that need review or if after this amendment bad results develop because of youngsters riding these things, even under adult supervision, we will consider any other amendment that might be deemed feasible.

4:30 p.m.

He also asked what we were doing about training. We have developed a special brochure on off-road vehicles that is distributed like our Driver's Handbook, like the handbook for snowmobiles and other things.

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Snow: I am sure the name is probably there. Along with Her Majesty, we have given it royal assent.

With regard to insurance and the matter relating to farmers brought up by the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), there no doubt is a cost to insurance, but I have not been convinced that we should not require insurance on these vehicles. I can understand that there is in some cases a general farm liability policy, which I used to have on my farm, to cover combines, tractors, manure spreaders and all other implements, that would perhaps cover these if they were deemed to be farm vehicles.

Now that we have designated them in a special way and required insurance, I can see the problem. On the other hand, I am advised that if the vehicle is used only on the farm it still can be insured under that policy as a farm vehicle and a special policy is not required. Of course, if a farmer is allowed to take the vehicle on the road to go from one farm to another, when he does that he gets into the requirement for registration and a separate policy, which I understand can cost anywhere from about \$100 or \$110 up to the figure the member quoted, of \$125 or \$130.

I have a little trouble relating the weight of the vehicle to the cost of insurance. To my knowledge, insurance companies rate policies on accident experience and payout experience.

Mr. Nixon: We do not not want insurance by the pound, do we?

Hon. Mr. Snow: I hope they do not sell it by the pound or my insurance would be quite expensive. In any case, there is the cost for insurance, but that is part of having the insurance requirement to protect the general public. If the vehicle is used only on the farmer's land for running back and forth to his fields and so on, it does not require an insurance policy and can be insured under the general liability policy.

I think that answers the comments that were made. The member for Huron-Middlesex (Mr. Riddell) mentioned the under-12-year-olds going from farm to farm. I doubt if there are many under-12s who would be sent out alone on one of these machines to go from one farm to another to do the chores. That is always possible. I know I

was sent out with an old Fordson tractor to work in the fields before I was 12 years old, without supervision, but in this case of going down the road one has to be 16 years of age to drive on a highway in any case. This amendment really does not affect that.

Motion agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

BUDGET DEBATE (continued)

Resuming the adjourned debate on the amendment to the motion that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Cousens: Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to carry on exactly where I left off on May 22, the last time we discussed the budget presented by the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman).

Mr. Stokes: You are not going to be nearly as provocative this time.

Mr. Cousens: I will try to refrain from any provocation of the honourable member, who has lost some hair since I last saw him. I lost a lot more a lot sooner than he did, but he can just clip it off and grow it again. I cannot do that, so I respect the member for Lake Nipigon (Mr. Stokes) for that and many other things.

This is a day when many of us are coming back to the House. Looking at the budget, it seems to be a long time since we addressed it.

Mr. Mancini: It looked worse than it did before, did it not?

Mr. Cousens: It looks better now.

Today we see something of the continuity in the way our government has managed the economy and the business of this province. We look with pride on the leadership the province has had under our Premier (Mr. Davis). Even though today we realize that it marks the end of a significant era in the province as our Premier moves into retirement, each of us has a great sense of confidence in the leadership being provided not only by our Treasurer and by our cabinet but also by the civil servants who support these people.

I believe that in spite of the fact we have a feeling of sadness today, there is also a feeling of optimism and the knowledge that we will go forward with a sense of direction and also with good leadership as well as it can continue to be provided not only by the Premier as long as he stays but also by our Minister of Treasury and Economics.

It is no accident that Ontario's economy has been thriving and growing and that confidence is

increasing. We are seeing an increased sense of confidence by the marketplace in the government's management of the fiscal affairs of this province by virtue of the way the economy is beginning to come back. We are seeing it in the way inflation is being fought and wrestled to the ground. We are seeing it in the way interest rates are being kept low.

The foundations of Ontario's success are solid, and even now, with the changes that are being forecast, there is no reason for alarm by the marketplace or by the communities we serve. The business community, the social community and every person in Ontario can know that things are in good hands here in this province of ours.

As I was presenting my points that fateful May 22, when I had to cut my remarks short because the clock ran out, I was commenting in some detail on the importance of the government's efforts to fight deficits, on the importance of spending and living within our means and on how important it was that our government continue in the direction we have already started: keeping the deficit down.

According to a recent report by the International Monetary Fund, among the seven major industrial economies Canada is running the highest deficit in relation to the size of its economy. That is really something. The only country whose deficit is running at a higher level than ours is Italy, whose deficit is nine per cent of its gross domestic product.

Mr. Mancini: Be careful what you say now.

Mr. Cousens: I do not want to say anything about Italians. I just want to say that Canada should be the leader in the way we manage our economy and our resources; but, as it is, we are going to have to fight our way out of this deficit hole so that we can better live within our means.

According to federal estimates, the Canadian net public debt stands at about \$150.9 billion, or about \$6,011 for every Canadian. In per capita terms, the people of Ontario's share of the Canadian net public debt is about \$52.9 billion. According to some critics, Ottawa's figures underestimate the size of accumulated debt, which they put as high as \$209.8 billion. In 1983-84 this would have been equal to 53.9 per cent of the gross national product.

We in Canada have come to live beyond our means. It is something that not only governments but also individuals have done. You just have to look at the way they use their plastic cards: Chargex, American Express or any of the other mechanisms they use to get quick, easy money. The unfortunate thing is that each person who

goes and builds up that debt has the responsibility of paying it off.

We here in Ontario realize, and certainly our Treasurer realizes, that the debt we have started to accumulate must begin to be addressed. We must make it smaller so that we live totally within our means. This has to be an objective of government.

This whole document in the budget of 1984 entitled Economic Transformation marks a real effort by our government to do something to live within our financial means. That is important. Certainly governments must get their financial situation under control when things start to get better.

4:40 p.m.

We are in the post-recession period now and this is the time for governments such as ours to get their financial affairs in order. This is certainly the hope I see within this document and it is certainly the hope we have for future generations, that they do not have to pay for the excesses that our governments have had and that our population has had prior to 1984. I see the effort that has been made within this budget as very responsible. It is an effort for all Canadians and all Ontarians to continue to maintain and control their expectations of government.

In a recent case in my riding, in the town of Vaughan, when Vaughan Hydro was seeking more money, it was able to come to a solution.

Mr. Martel: Like Ontario Hydro. They have kept theirs at five per cent, have they not?

Mr. Cousens: Indeed, they are worth more money, but Vaughan Hydro settled this weekend in a very close vote. The increase for that Hydro is 4.1 per cent, quite within the boundaries and guidelines our government has been trying to give.

Mr. Martel: What about Ontario Hydro?

Mr. Cousens: I am talking about a key hydro utility that serves—

Mr. Martel: It got 8.5. They kept within bounds and limits.

Mr. Cousens: The member is just getting warmed up.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for York Centre has the floor.

Mr. Cousens: We are seeing the responsibility being carried by people out there within our jurisdiction and within our province who are trying to live within responsible means.

Mr. Martel: Yes, it is in your power, but 8.5 per cent for Ontario Hydro.

Mr. Cousens: I am proud of my riding. I am proud of Vaughan Hydro and the employees who have worked out that agreement.

Mr. Martel: No, you were talking about the Ontario government. Come on. Do you think that is right?

Mr. Cousens: There has to be more of that kind of spirit for our government to prosper and for this economy to prosper.

Mr. Martel: Yes, 8.5. What a spirit.

Mr. Cousens: Perhaps the Speaker wants the member from Sudbury to take the floor?

The Deputy Speaker: More of the debate and fewer interjections would be fine. The member for York Centre has the floor.

Mr. Cousens: I am trying not to be provocative.

Mr. Martel: He is distorting. It is 8.5 per cent for Hydro.

The Deputy Speaker: The member for Sudbury East will have his opportunity for debate.

Mr. Cousens: I think the member should withdraw the word "distorting." I was making a presentation on that.

The Deputy Speaker: Does the member for Sudbury East want to make a correction? I think the member is going to retract.

Mr. Martel: I really do not want to, but if you insist, Mr. Speaker, I might consider it.

Mr. Cousens: I thank the member and tell him I am proud of what is going on within my riding. I hope the unions in his riding are making the same kinds of presentation that speak of the kind of control and fiscal responsibility that Vaughan Hydro has certainly been able to settle on.

There is one other point I would like to make with regard to the whole budgetary process. It has to do with the fact that we in Ontario have made a significant advance in the recovery of our economy, and I think we can look to the future with optimism. I would like to see more of the process the Treasurer talked about here when he brought out the point on economic transformation, on innovation, enterprise and small business.

Certainly, the efforts that are going to be made by the small business people in our province to be able to lay a base, to add to their manufacturing and to build for the future can be helped by the assistance that has been offered through the budget we are discussing today, the fact that we have research and enterprise at universities being

expanded, the whole business of technology diffusion and of auto parts investment.

We have to see a continuing effort to restore the confidence of the small manufacturer, who can then go to the bank, borrow money and reinvest back in his business, so our manufacturing sector in this province can be stronger than ever. What we have seen in this budgetary effort is that we are taking steps in the right direction, to focus on retraining, to retrain the existing labour force, as well as trying to get the new youth out to work.

I sincerely hope our government does not try to become too involved in the world of industry. Government can continue to build an environment to allow industry to succeed and prosper. I genuinely believe too much government involvement leads to disincentives, inefficiencies and waste. I hope the programs that are enunciated in our budget will continue to build an environment for economic success.

I am pleased with what the budget talks about. It talks about predictions of a 4.7 per cent increase in real economic growth and about an 8.9 per cent increase in personal income. This is what we all want to have, so there can be growth and people in our province will have the financial means to enjoy a good lifestyle and a good life within this province.

There are many things to be said on the budget. I see it as one of the real foundations for the success of our province today. Optimism and confidence are high because people see the efforts that are being taken by Ontario as being the right kind of efforts that stimulate and promote the growth in the economy that makes Ontario strong.

Ontario is already the largest manufacturing sector in Canada, and we will continue to have that, especially with the kind of leadership we see coming from our own Treasurer and Minister of Economics. As we look to the future, we know there has to be a continuing thrust in the kind of directions that are enunciated in this document. We will continue to fight the deficit, but we will continue to provide not only social services for people but also services for industry and manufacturing to succeed, so that our tech centres can provide those services and the advice and counsel to allow them to go out and buy the kind of equipment that will allow them to be strong, especially with competition increasing.

We are talking about a world that is changing so quickly, a world that has great changes going on south of the border. If only more people realized the kind of legislation being passed by

Congress in Washington, which is going to be more and more restrictive of people like ourselves from Ontario, Canada and other countries selling into the United States, they would see it means that we in Ontario have to be all the more keen and conscientious to take advantage of every marketing opportunity we can; it means we have to be competitively strong and keep the prices of our products down; it means we have to work harder than ever.

I see what our government is doing as supportive of that effort, but I also see it as something where we as legislators, going back into our communities and talking to our own merchants, distributors and manufacturers, can kindle that spirit of desire so that they will want to succeed.

We do not know how lucky we are. All we have to do is look around the world and see that many other countries do not have what we have. We have a solid base for growth. We have confidence and a market. If we can just nurture that and build upon it, I believe we in Ontario can have not only the best economy in Canada but one of the best economies in the world.

Since I spoke on May 22, there was a federal election, and some of the concerns we had at that time as to the whole federal scene have possibly changed. At least we will see new efforts being made. I just hope Ontario can continue to have a very close, warm, good working relationship with Ottawa so that we in Ontario do not act as a small, separate entity but can work with our federal government in a good way to build a strong economy for this country.

Ontario has had a good policy when buying for its own civil service and for the government. It has been a buy-Canadian policy. As a Canadian and as an Ontarian, I like to believe we have to put Canada first. Anything we can do to build this country and this province is synonymous with the kind of success that I know has been important to our Premier, our Treasurer and to all honourable members.

We look to the future with optimism in this party. I look to it with great optimism, knowing that we have a basis for growth. I look forward to seeing us continue to do the kinds of things we have done, to manage the future and manage change in a way that can continue to instil confidence in the minds and hearts of everyone we seek to serve.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member who just took his seat mentioned a number of important events that have occurred since we adjourned in June.

He mentioned the federal election, which was a minor setback for the Liberal Party. The campaign was an interesting one in that the Premier himself took a leading role. I was quite interested that he was so strongly supporting Mr. Mulroney, now the Prime Minister of Canada, when the Prime Minister had three specific policy positions firmly entered into by himself and his colleagues which I would have thought the Premier of Ontario would have difficulty supporting.

4:50 p.m.

As a matter of fact, I was watching the responses during the campaign and was particularly interested that at the outset of the federal campaign the Premier of Ontario really took a position in direct opposition to his federal leader. I refer to the call for world oil prices by Mr. Mulroney and the federal Conservatives. The national energy policy established by the previous Liberal administration, which was designed to repatriate ownership and control of our petroleum industry and make Canada self-sufficient in petroleum, was rejected by the Conservatives.

They did not go so far as to say Petro-Canada should be sold off, but they did say Canada should move to achieve world prices for our oil production. This was Mr. Mulroney's bow to his supporters in Alberta and the other oil-producing provinces, particularly Saskatchewan, but it is something we in Ontario are not quick to accept. The present Premier has always rejected that, understanding we are a consuming province. In fact, the election his good friend Joe Clark lost was on the basis of an 18-cents-per-gallon increase in the taxes on petroleum. Members may remember that election, which returned Mr. Trudeau as Prime Minister for an additional almost five years.

It was interesting that on the basis of world oil prices the first response of the Premier was to call on the then federal government to review gasoline prices in Ontario with an eye to removing the fluctuations, which he indicated he felt were unfair. It was very difficult for those of us in opposition to take him seriously since a major component of our high gasoline prices in Ontario is the eight-cents-per-litre gasoline tax this administration has imposed.

Members will recall that before the election of 1981 the gasoline tax was a specific number of cents per gallon. As I remember, it was 19 cents per gallon. As the Premier and his colleagues in the Treasury benches went to the people for the election, they indicated they hoped there would

be no new taxes. One of the things that concerned them specifically was the cost of gasoline. Yet after they were returned with a majority government—with your support, Mr. Speaker, as a matter of fact; it may embarrass you now, but we might as well face that fact—one of their first acts was to change the gasoline tax from a specific number of cents per gallon to an ad valorem tax based on the fluctuating price of gasoline.

Since the price is not fixed and at least to some extent is a result of competition in the marketplace, in order to have the gasoline tax have some sort of stability the tax is established by the Minister of Revenue and his advisers on a quarterly basis. At the most recent fixing, I understand it was just over eight cents per litre, depending on the time at which the calculation is made. This is just about 36 cents per gallon, to put it back in the antediluvian units some members opposite have to have in order to understand just what the units are. At 36 cents per gallon it appears this administration, at the same time indicating it did not want to increase taxes—and as a matter of fact in the last budget clearly stating no taxes would be increased—has under the carpet and behind the door increased the gasoline taxes by 100 per cent since the people of Ontario responded to the Premier's call to help him keep the promise.

As a matter of fact, eight cents per litre is bigger than the federal-government grab from petroleum and almost as big as that of the government of Alberta. Alberta does not have a motor vehicle fuel tax in the same sense we have, but it does have royalties on the wellhead production of the petroleum since under the British North America Act it owns that particular natural resource.

It is interesting when one looks at Alberta's ownership of a source of energy, because the same does not hold true for the uranium that comes out of the ground in Ontario. By federal order in council some years ago, uranium was designated an energy resource crucial to the whole of Canada and comes directly under federal jurisdiction.

I will be referring to the uranium a little later in my remarks, but in this instance Brian Mulroney called for world oil price. Without stepping on the toes of his new federal leader, the Premier has rejected that. It may have been one of the reasons he felt he did not want to continue as Premier of Ontario. It would be difficult for him to cope with such a situation when Mr. Mulroney finally gets to the point where he, too, tries to keep the promise.

Mr. Ruston: Too hot in the kitchen.

Mr. Nixon: Yes. Actually, this whole statistical background is courtesy of my colleague the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston), who has really been one of the experts in opposition in this important matter. But the whole matter of energy in Ontario, going back to 1973, has been a crucial issue, a very important matter, and I have been surprised that the Premier, giving what leadership he has in the last few months, has not seen fit really to do something for the good of our own people.

I might as well get into this topic now. It has to do with Ontario Hydro and the provision of electrical energy, over which we do have 100 per cent direct control. Although the Premier's former campaign manager is no longer chairman of Ontario Hydro, there is no reason to believe the Premier, through his many communications, is not at least able to communicate with Ontario Hydro. It was particularly surprising that when Ontario Hydro applied to the Ontario Energy Board for an increase in hydro rates in Ontario of about 9.2 per cent the Ontario Energy Board rejected that and forced them to, or at least indicated that they should accept an increase not of 9.2 per cent, but just something over eight per cent.

Members are aware that the Ontario Energy Board cannot dictate to Ontario Hydro. As a matter of fact, I do not suppose anyone can. Certain people such as the Premier and the former Treasurer could make suggestions to Ontario Hydro, to which they always responded positively, but under the present administration they appear to have been almost completely out of public control almost for the last decade. Ontario Hydro is now planning to increase its hydro rates by almost double the rate of inflation. It is unfortunate that is so, but we know that Ontario Hydro has been subject to some very serious errors in judgement and, beyond that, sheer bad luck.

I for one happen to be very impressed with the accomplishments of Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. and Ontario Hydro. These two great, world-class organizations, working in conjunction and partnership, have established the safest and most efficient nuclear reactors in the world. I do not believe there is any doubt of that. As a matter of fact, comparisons with all of the nuclear reactors in this country, the United States, Japan, Korea, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and, as far as we know, the reactors in the Soviet Union indicate that ours at Pickering and, particularly, the Bruce plant are the most

efficient and I believe the safest anywhere. That does not mean that our commitment of billions of dollars is in the long run going to be seen to be a wise investment, but for the time being I am still prepared to say the Bruce plant was a useful and important commitment in support of technology which is the best in the world.

5 p.m.

The problem we have experienced in Pickering—and the Speaker and members who have followed it very closely are aware of it, too—is engineering misfortune. I cannot blame the Premier for the fact that the garter retention springs slipped out of their proper placement because of inequalities in pressure and temperature and allowed the calandria tubes to sag, touching the container tubes, or whatever, and this produced some sort of electrolysis or hydridization.

My honourable friend the minister in the second row, who is looking at me, would explain this in greater detail if members were particularly interested, but the result was that the tubes ruptured and there was a very serious leakage and the shutdown of two of our major reactors. It is going to be many months before they are back in production, about a year and a half as a minimum, and the costs will be in excess of \$700 million.

That figure does not seem to be impressive when we talk about Ontario Hydro, where the costs are in the astronomical range. That was a piece of bad luck. We are hoping it does not signal the kind of flaw in engineering that is irreparable. I was glad to read in the reports available to me that the same design problems have not occurred in the reactors that were built later. However, when one looks at the problems Ontario Hydro has been experiencing, that is one of the minor ones.

I had the great pleasure of driving into eastern Ontario for a nominating convention a few days ago, to Napanee, where another winner was nominated at that time. A large throng was gathered in the local high school. The word had got out that I was going there to speak, and I was really delighted to realize that our representation in the House from eastern Ontario is going to be strengthened and expanded even further whenever the new leader of the Progressive Conservative Party calls an election.

I drove past Wesleyville generating station. There is another town there, Bath, which has what they call the Lennox generating station. These large oil-fired stations have not been brought into service by Ontario Hydro. There has

been a commitment of about \$750 million in building them. Because they were based on oil as a fuel, they were uneconomical before they were even commissioned. One was fired up a couple of times, but these things are sitting there and will never be used.

It is amazing to see the intricacies of the engineering and the commitment of the workmen and technologists in building those things. Ten thousand years from now, when the new explorers of North America come over whatever lake is going to be there, they will come upon these things and say: "Look at these marvellous temples that were left by this society thousands of years ago. Here is all this hardware and all these control panels that must have been some way of worship." They are not going to be used in any way.

One of the amazing aspects of this is that Ontario Hydro says, "How did we know the price of oil was going to go up?" Those generating plants were completed long after 1973, when the Arab sheikhs decided to put us on the rack, and long before Premier Peter Lougheed decided he wanted to make his province the richest in Canada and that he was going to push his federal Tory party for the world price at our expense. It was simply bad judgement.

The worst part of it is that Ontario Hydro entered into an agreement to take 20,000 barrels of heavy oil a day starting back about 1981 and going to 1992. That agreement was entered into with Petrosar, and naturally Ontario Hydro cannot take the oil because it has decided not to use any of it.

Now, 20,000 barrels a day is quite a lot of stuff for the lawyers to hide behind the bushes. With Hydro not accepting this fuel, the only course open to Petrosar when an arm of government rejected a contract entered into in good faith was to sue Ontario Hydro. One can imagine that the cost of the oil we are not using is astronomical and fearsome, surpassed only by the cost of the lawyers for Ontario Hydro and Petrosar who, during the lives and careers of scores of lawyers, will be mediating, meeting, going to court and going through all the hearings at all the inflated prices that are associated with that profession, all at the expense of the poor consumers of electrical energy who even this year are experiencing increased power rates at double the rate of inflation.

I am talking about the problems Ontario Hydro has been experiencing. I understand the lawsuits for 1981 and 1982 alone have resulted in a \$100-million bill, and this is going to go on until

1992. Naturally, Ontario Hydro is following the example of other crown corporations and anybody caught out in a situation that is embarrassing and has immediately countersued Polysar Ltd. The basis of that suit is that Polysar was not able to produce and deliver the 22,000 barrels a day that Ontario had originally ordered.

The whole thing is just a nightmare and it is a further indication, in my view, of the mismanagement of that crown corporation.

A few years ago I had the great honour and pleasure to be a part of the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs. One of the reasons it was first established under the chairmanship of Donald MacDonald, who was then the member for York South, was that the heavy water installations that were built at public expense by Ontario Hydro on the Bruce Peninsula, at the Bruce atomic site, were running far past their original cost specification and were extremely late in their completion.

We had the interesting opportunity to inspect the situation very closely and found the cost overruns were enormous. One of the recommendations coming out of that committee was that Ontario Hydro ought to immediately mothball their work because the projections for power in Ontario indicated the heavy water production from these unbelievably complex and expensive installations would never be needed.

I was critical of the cost of the select committee, and I am prepared to be more critical as time goes on, but in this instance our recommendation resulted in the then Minister of Energy first rejecting the recommendation and a few months later accepting it when it came from Ontario Hydro itself and mothballing the installation. Here is an instance where an additional \$800 million to \$900 million was just wasted by the inadequate planning of Ontario Hydro under the supervision of the then government of Ontario. They pretty well relinquished that responsibility and supervision in recent years.

A sidelight to this that really boggles the mind, to coin a phrase—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Some minds are easier to boggle.

Mr. Nixon: All right. The member for York Mills (Miss Stephenson) may have heard it before; but she has heard everything before.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No. I just said some minds are easier to boggle; that is all.

Mr. Nixon: All right. It has to do with the provision of fuel for our atomic reactors. The nice thing is that this is an indigenous fuel: the uranium comes out of the rock in Ontario even

though, under the situation I described a few minutes ago, it is not a natural resource controlled by the provinces as other natural resources are. It is mined by two or three important and large companies, the largest and most important controlled by Stephen Roman, a one-time or sometime Liberal.

The uranium is bought by Ontario Hydro under the terms of an agreement entered into a number of years ago, that agreement being reviewed by the select committee on Ontario Hydro affairs. As a matter of fact, it was added to the terms of reference of the committee by the Premier himself, who realized this was going to be a very difficult, knotty problem for him because the contract had to be approved by the cabinet.

After review, the tame Tories on the committee nodded and said: "Yes. We think the arrangement proposed with the uranium producers is a good one." The two opposition parties admittedly did not agree, except we agreed that the contract proposals should not be entered into. There was every indication that the supplies of uranium around the world were going to be such that the price would come down.

5:10 p.m.

An interesting footnote, Mr, Speaker—and I mention it before you yourself interject with it—is that in those days there was a cartel established by the government of Canada, the already late-lamented government of Canada. It had established a cartel of international proportions, which was endeavouring to fix the price of uranium at a very unnaturally high level. This was, I suppose, to the advantage of Canada, which through Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd. was selling uranium in other areas of the world and we wanted the price to be high.

Here was uranium coming out of our own mines, being used in our own atomic reactors, and its price was unnaturally elevated. The contract entered into by Ontario Hydro with Steve Roman and his mining buddies, and approved by the Premier, was one that allowed the price to go up but not come down. It really is the most absurd situation one could ever imagine.

My honourable colleague who does not happen to be in the House just at this very minute, the member for Grey-Bruce (Mr. Sargent), has repeatedly put questions to the Premier about this matter. The Premier usually just dismisses it with a wave of his hand. The result this year alone was that Ontario Hydro bought uranium from Steve Roman and his cronies for \$230 million. The

same uranium bought on the world market would have cost Ontario Hydro \$73 million. This contract goes on for many years in the future.

In Darlington, we are building the largest series of atomic reactors in the world, bar none. There may be something in Minsk or Pinsk that is pretty big, but there is nothing like the concept and size of the Darlington installation. We are not serving the consumers of electricity in any useful and constructive way when we saddle them with the additional costs of the original and continued fuelling of uranium at such an unnaturally elevated price.

I have met Steve Roman. As a matter of fact, I had a luncheon with him once. He is a bright, capable guy. He has community spirit in some respects. He is building a basilica on his own property north of Toronto which looks down over the metropolitan area. He was able to persuade His Holiness himself to go up and give his papal blessing to this beautiful building, which I understand is an exact replica of Steve Roman's church back in his home town of what is now Czechoslovakia.

The man has qualities that are admirable and interesting. But what he does best of all is wrap governments around his various fingers and make money. The only time he was stopped was when he wanted to sell Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co. Ltd. to American interests. In those days Pierre Trudeau—thank God for Pierre Trudeau—stopped him. They passed legislation, which finally moved on to become the Foreign Investment Review Agency, and stopped the loss of this particular company, which is a huge company of world proportions, to foreign ownership.

Mr. Roman has been unbelievably successful. Members have all read his story about coming here after the war and working as a farmer. He undoubtedly has extremely great talent as an entrepreneur and is a person who has been unbelievably personally successful. I am not arguing with him. He is doing the best he can, and believe me, his best is very good indeed.

The other side of that bargain was the Premier. There is no way we should have entered into a contract that is so one-sided. I am very much concerned when we look at Ontario Hydro and see that once again a very serious error was made. It seems to be difficult to repair it. It is just as if we are saying: "We will let the time go. We have unlimited money fire-hosing in and out of Hydro, and we will simply keep transferring these many millions of dollars to Steve Roman and his corporate bank accounts."

I say again, I am not blaming him. He is not a Liberal, that is for sure. His nephew is an independent member of the Parliament of Canada with sort of Tory tendencies, I would expect; so he has a pretty good pipeline into the federal government as well. I do not know, but I certainly think the consumers of Hydro ought to be more concerned over these matters than they have expressed in the past.

There is one further area pertaining to Ontario Hydro which I feel is a serious condemnation of its judgement and of the administration of this great utility. Members will recall that I and other members from all parties have asked a number of questions in the House about the planning and erection of 500-kilovolt power lines from the Bruce atomic plant into southwestern Ontario.

It is interesting to note that it is now estimated that because of the inadequacies of the planning and administration of Ontario Hydro and the inadequacies of the leadership of the government of Ontario, the lines to carry the power out of the Bruce will not be in place when Bruce B, this great bank of four enormous world-class generators, goes into production.

In fact, we will have everything in place—the fuel rods doing their thing, all the little neutrons bouncing around, the heat energy being taken to the turbines and the turbines ready to spin—but there will be no transmission power lines to take the power out to the market. There have been 20 years during which this should have been planned, the property acquired and the lines built. Ontario Hydro, in my view, has done its best to come forward with a routing of those lines.

I do not want to go through the whole story of this, other than to recall that during the last election campaign, the one in which we all were supposed to help the Premier keep the promise, probably the most important promise of all, in view of what we are seeing now, was that we would not permit Ontario's effluent of acid oxides, sulphur dioxide and so on to increase beyond a certain level.

As a matter of fact, one of the largest single emitters of the gases that result in acid rain is the enormous coal-fired power plant at Nanticoke. It is just 30 miles south of me and almost within sight of the farm of my colleague the member for Haldimand-Norfolk (Mr. G. I. Miller).

The Nanticoke power station is fuelled by coal bought largely in the United States, although Hydro is trying to work a little bit of Alberta coal into it too. Of course, it wants the coal to be low-sulphur, but that is an additional cost. Once

again, this is the largest thermal plant in North America, and if it is not the largest in the world, it is very close to it.

It was built by Ontario Hydro engineers. They had some difficulties, you will remember, Mr. Speaker, when they were putting an enormous rotor into one of the generators. It was manufactured in England. It had come all the way across on the water and up the St. Lawrence Seaway. An enormous crane had lifted it out of the boat and trundled it across to this huge power station. They were just about to lower it in when something slipped and the blooming rotor fell and hit the floor. Then they had to lift it up, put it back on the boat, send it down the St. Lawrence Seaway, send it across to the United Kingdom and remanufacture it. These things happen. Even Ontario Hydro, with some of the best engineers anywhere, has experienced probably more than its share of what can only be called, with members' permission, screwups.

Anyway, these things have happened, and the consumers of electricity have said: "Well, at least the power is on. Our houses are lit, our television is coloured and the beer is cold, so I guess we can pay an extra few cents." But when you have everybody in the province facing these increases in power rates, it certainly is time for us to express a serious concern.

5:20 p.m.

In the speech from the throne in 1982 it was clearly stated that to keep the promise of the reduction in the emission of acid gas by Ontario Hydro, scrubbers would be designed, ordered and installed at Nanticoke. There has been an argument about this because various ministers, including the present Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) and the Premier, who is touchy about this—and well he may be—have said, "No, we promised to keep the emission of acid gas down to a certain level."

As a matter of fact, their intention was to leave Nanticoke the way it was and to use it as little as possible, because when you fire up those big boilers and start putting in hundreds of tons of coal containing sulphur as an impurity, day by day, there is going to be a huge emission of acid gas.

It is very difficult for us to argue with the real villains in this, the huge power plants and industries in the Ohio Valley, that they should cut back on their acid gas emissions when we are so bad here. As a matter of fact, Ontario Hydro's failure to do this has been the single most difficult hurdle for Canadian negotiators to get over when

they talk to their opposite numbers in the United States.

The Americans simply ask, "What about your problems with Ontario Hydro and to some extent with Inco in Sudbury?" which my friend, who is valiantly keeping his seat wondering when I am going to come to an end to my remarks, wants to nationalize. I am not sure what that would do to the gas emissions, but knowing my honourable friend it would probably make them worse.

The Premier has a real problem. His advisers have said that once Bruce B comes on stream we will have lots of electricity and we will not have to worry about Nanticoke. His promise—that word that means more to him than all others, and I admire and congratulate him for having that reputation, even with, let us say, one of his more severe critics—he is going to have a problem fulfilling that promise because the electricity cannot come out of the Bruce Peninsula. We have invested more than \$10 billion there. While some electricity is coming out—a very significant amount—when Bruce B comes on stream much of the power is going to be bottled up because of the inadequate leadership of the government of Ontario.

I liked Hugh Macaulay. He had a lot of difficulties when he was chairman of Hydro and he quit rather precipitately when it looked as if the problems he was going to have to face as chairman of Hydro were going to be insurmountable. The promise to keep the acid gas emissions down within the levels promised was not going to be able to be kept. The government had not been able to go forward with its commitment to install the scrubbers at Nanticoke and, because of the awkwardness and inept leadership of the government of Ontario, the transmission lines would not be built.

As a matter of fact, my colleague, who by coincidence does not happen to be here at this moment, the member for Grey (Mr. McKessock), on the very first occasion when it was announced that these power lines would come out of the Bruce peninsula across to Barrie through his constituency, through Grey county, and then would come down to the Brampton area and cut along Highway 401 and down through Norfolk county, through the great farming areas there, and curve up around to London, as soon as that decision was made, the member for Grey wrote to the Premier and appealed to the cabinet to review that decision. He said there was no proper notice to our people that would indicate to them they should even appear at the meetings held in Stratford, Ontario, in order to protest that

the lines would interfere with their property and their livelihood.

You have heard the argument before, Mr. Speaker. I know you pay attention to all these debates and forget nothing. At that time, the member for Grey said the notice was inadequate and, therefore, the cabinet should order a rehearing. At the time, the Premier and the Minister of Energy rejected that. There were many arguments, questions and indignation meetings. Many months later, with all the involvements of my favourite profession, the legal one, and all these people going day after day to interminable hearings, with all the appeals, delays and adjournments these professionals could think up, finally the Supreme Court of Ontario said the decision to build the power line as planned was thrown out because the notice was inadequate.

The suggestion is that the member for Grey could replace all of the brains in the government and Hydro too. He was right and they were wrong. He has a better sense of justice and a determination of what is necessary to the province than all these great minds that sit in the Treasury benches. There is only one of them there now and another, who is kind of partly great, joining her.

It really is difficult to understand why the government should not be supporting Ontario Hydro in a more effective way, giving it the kind of legislation that would enable it to put the power lines where they should go. With Ontario Hydro having just had a succession of fiascos largely attributed to decisions forced upon it by the government of Ontario over these years, this is a matter that must concern us in this House.

Many members will recall the debate that accompanied a government bill to make Ontario Hydro a crown corporation. I well remember the arguments put forward by the New Democratic Party in support of the government at that time. It was up to the Liberal opposition to indicate it was a mistake to take the control of Hydro so completely out of this chamber. The community as a whole is aware of this and the debates are often discussed by people to whom I talk.

I think during one of his earlier incarnations the Premier himself was a vice-chairman of Hydro. In those days there was always a cabinet minister or a person who could speak in the House for Hydro. He could receive the questions and try to respond to the criticism because the idea that it should be divorced from this place and out of the control of government was not acceptable.

We have seen other crown corporations at another level of government bring huge losses on the taxpayers, unbelievable losses. It was something we could have avoided if the Liberal alternative had been accepted. As members of this House we would have had a forum other than this one, which is talking mostly to empty seats and a few interested ministers.

Hon. Mr. Norton: We accept your position on regional government.

Mr. Nixon: That is a really good topic. We will get into that next.

The Deputy Speaker: It is perhaps closer to the subject.

Mr. Nixon: I wanted to put my objections to Ontario Hydro's policy and practice on the record of the Legislature. When the Premier's successor finally runs out of time in a five-year term and decides to go to the people, that is going to be a prime issue.

Almost as an aside, I was also interested that another crown corporation is one that is going to have to command our more careful attention in the near future. I see my colleague the member for Huron-Bruce (Mr. Elston) is here. He is the critic of the Ministry of the Environment and a very good one indeed, as I am sure we would all agree.

I want to recall briefly to the House and even to one of the previous Ministers of the Environment, who as usual is in his place paying careful attention to the business of the House, that I have a growing concern about the Ontario Waste Management Corp. and its leader, Dr. Donald Chant.

I was all set for an election to be called yesterday and I was thinking of what has happened since the election three and a half years ago. One of the big issues then was industrial waste and what to do with it.

Members may recall that the first solution announced by the Honourable Harry Parrott, whom we miss in this House—he would make a good Liberal; I am going to talk to him about that some time—was that the government was going to take some of this industrial liquid waste, mostly polychlorinated biphenyls, bring it into the great riding of Brant in the township of Onondaga, spend \$12 million putting it in big cans retained in cement walls and store it in perpetuity.

5:30 p.m.

My own feeling is that the research done at the Royal Military College was getting along to the point where it could dispose of polychlorinated

biphenyls in a way that would use the plasma arc. Is that what they called it?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Plasma torch.

Mr. Nixon: Plasma torch.

Hon. Mr. Norton: No, that was the arc. I am sorry. Torch is the new one.

Mr. Nixon: All right. It was going to use electricity to do that. I was pressing for this and I have often been surprised that the member for Kingston and the Islands (Mr. Norton) seems to be so reluctant to put forward the cause of the plasma arc or torch, which is the result of research funded by the government and the taxpayers of Ontario, not the Minister of Health. He is pointing to his own noble chest.

It has often been a source of amazement to me that we have not been able to progress in that connection. I cannot help feeling that the local member is not doing his duty in putting it before his colleagues or those people—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: It is not approved technology.

Mr. Nixon: What do you know about it?

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Just what I have read.

Mr. Nixon: Pardon me. I am sure the Minister of Education should know about everything. She would not be Minister of Education if she did not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: I should know about some things, anyway.

Mr. Nixon: All right.

But, as members recall, there was immediately formed a very viable committee in Onondaga township which was successful in getting the government to reconsider this cock-amamy scheme to store PCBs in this particular beautiful rural area. It was probably also a result of the fact that the government had another brilliant overnight vision. It could use the property it had bought some years before in South Cayuga, which it had bought for a new city, a dreamscape, a vision of a former Treasurer that had never materialized. Here was this piece of property where it could take the PCBs, spend the money to control industrial wastes—solid, liquid and so on—and set up its laboratories, its incinerators and its permanent storage facilities for the materials it could not otherwise control.

There was once again a substantial local outcry. This is in a beautiful area of farm land owned by the province by mistake and bad judgement; it is right on the shores of Lake Erie with the Grand River running nearby. So the pressure came on the Honourable Harry Parrott,

then Minister of the Environment, in an almost unrelenting and fierce way. His colleagues sat down with Harry and said, "We have to do something," and somebody got the bright idea that Donald Chant, a very highly regarded professor of environmental science, zoology and so on at the University of Toronto, might be persuaded to establish some sort of commission to look into this.

I remember the day it was announced. I really felt somewhat betrayed, since Dr. Chant had been a completely independent spokesman, often critical of the government and of various ministers and very quick to support any elected person by providing impartial information. When the government got up and said it had hired Donald Chant to do this work, to begin with I felt politically let down. Then I thought: "All right, if he is prepared to take this on, then maybe there is a solution. Maybe this is going to pass out of politics, where it really should not be and where it is only because of the incompetence of the administration in dealing with this serious issue."

So Dr. Chant was hired at the highest salary of any public servant in the province, including everybody in this room. He was given *carte blanche*, a blank cheque, in order to carry out his responsibilities and to get the government off the hook.

Frankly, it worked, because it was impossible to criticize Dr. Chant. "After all," he said, "I know what I am doing." The people in Pollution Probe were somewhat shocked that he had more or less taken the Queen's shilling, or whatever it is known as. But he said—I heard him say it in the estimates and I was and really still am prepared to accept his assurances—that he would do all the scientific research necessary to locate the areas of the province where such a waste disposal and/or storage site could be located; and he has done this, at least to some extent, over the intervening months and years.

I was not too shocked when the Provincial Auditor brought to our attention that he had furnished his boardroom with a set of chairs each costing \$780, and so on. I have a feeling that anybody who comes from the realm of academe is not very sensitive about cost in something like this. They know that over the years—the University of Toronto has certainly had this impression—any money needed was always forthcoming; that is, until recently. As an academician, he was never trained to think that in a case like that one should do anything but have the best, and certainly he has responded to that.

I come to the area about which I must express my concern. This all started back about 1980 with a series of incorrect decisions and costly delays by previous Ministers of the Environment, with the whole government of Ontario trying to help its beleaguered colleagues. Once they got Dr. Chant front and centre the worries disappeared. All the stories about, "We have to get this poisonous material looked after immediately," and so on, seemed to disappear. Donald Chant was the antidote for all those problems.

I am warning any members of the government who are around that they are about to run out of time with this solution. Dr. Chant is out of the university ambit now. Many people who become involved with the responsibilities of government tend to have these things become ends in themselves and not vehicles to accomplish the solutions for which they were established.

I express that concern and I give warning to anyone who is interested that it is going to be my intention to continue to examine this minutely and on a day-to-day basis, because it is time for a solution to be brought forward.

Another interesting footnote is that, on the maps already prepared by Dr. Chant, one of the areas for suitable storage and a location where the servicing of the liquid and other industrial waste can take place is near Brampton. It may well be that with its magical protection about to evaporate in thin air, that location is going to be seen to be a bit better than it was in the past because it is right in the centre of where much of the pollution is produced.

It will be interesting to see what happens in the next few months and years. Solutions are needed and we are going to have to hear from the Ontario Waste Management Corp. and particularly from its chairman because he, in his person and his reputation, has bought the government freedom from the criticism that should have been its because of the mismanagement of this tremendously important matter.

I have a couple of more items that I will continue with. I want to say, and perhaps I should have started with these remarks, how much I enjoyed the visit of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth. I feel I should mention this because I am sure the members are aware that her special responsibilities included a visit to the Indian reservation of the Six Nations. I was particularly delighted that those advising Her Majesty on planning this visit put that forward because the Indians of this community, which makes up the largest reservation by population in Canada, came there over 200 years ago.

5:40 p.m.

The Iroquois, as they are sometimes called, more properly the Six Nations, were an extremely interesting society. They were strong warriors and so well organized that 300 years ago over a large area of North America they imposed peace of a type that in many respects we must still honour. They organized themselves through their Longhouse religion, assigning special responsibilities to each of the clans in the Six Nations: the firekeeper, the doorkeeper and so on.

They established a procedure whereby chiefs of the various nations would meet around their council fire, and while they would argue and debate the very intricate and important decisions taken in those days, since they were really emperors of all they surveyed, they did not resort to authoritarianism or dictatorship. They did not even resort to democracy, since they never took a vote. They would discuss and debate until they reached a unanimous decision.

That sounds like the sort of thing we should be doing here because, when the arguments are put forward in a compelling way, it is sometimes possible that even an intransigent would change his or her mind.

Hon. Mr. Norton: The member misunderstood their process. He keeps talking as though there is consensus.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Nixon: What is this? As a matter of fact, I have decided to adopt that method. I have decided to adopt it.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk has the floor.

Mr. Nixon: Still.

Mr. Speaker: Right.

Mr. Nixon: I should mention that while the Six Nations found their homeland—I suppose one could call it to some extent their hunting ground—in the Valley of the Mohawk, in what is now New York state, they used to come up here hunting and in war parties. In many respects, they were responsible for the decimation, if not the practical elimination, of the other Indian tribes in this part of the world. They were great fighters and great allies of George III.

Sir William Johnson was the Indian agent and was very highly regarded by the Indian community. Just a few days ago, I visited his well-preserved home in the Mohawk Valley, and the stories about the great Indian encampments and consultations 250 years ago are still definitely on the record.

But the high regard the Six Nations held for the British crown—at least the representatives of the British crown—found them fighting against the rebels at the time of the revolutionary war. When peace was finally made and the British crown relinquished its sovereignty over the American colonies, the Indians found themselves in what one would call a strange position. They had fought on the wrong side and they had lost the war.

The American settlers—the relatives of many of us here, I suppose—were aggressively moving into the Indian lands which were among the most beautiful and most fertile in North America. The Indians found they had to vacate. The governor on this side, Governor Haldimand, with the concurrence of the Colonial Office in the United Kingdom, made an arrangement and an offer to these Indians. He offered them the land in what is now Ontario—it was then called Quebec, as members know—and the land was six miles on each side of the Grand River. Led by their great chief, Thyendanegea, Joseph Brant, the Indians came across at Niagara and took up their lands in this part of what I suppose was then British North America.

Members can imagine the depth of feeling that was present in the forecourt of Her Majesty's Chapel of the Mohawks, which is an Anglican Church chapel near the city of Brantford but on Indian land, when the present elected chief, Wellington Staats, rose in his full costume and addressed Her Majesty. I will tell members that it was quite moving when he said, "Two hundred years ago, my people gave up all they had—their land, their farms, their homes, their hunting ground, the places where they had lived for time immemorial—and had come across to another country because of their loyalty to the British crown."

It was a great education for those people, in the presence of Her Majesty and the Prince, the Premier, Mrs. Davis, leaders of church and state—

Mr. Stokes: I looked for the member for Brant-Oxford-Norfolk and I did not see him.

Mr. Nixon: I was relegated to a bullpen nearby.

Mr. Stokes: I particularly looked for his presence there.

Mr. Nixon: I appreciate the member for Lake Nipigon's worry, but when there are so many cabinet ministers who want in on the act, what is one going to do when one is just the member for the area?

Mr. Ruston: That is right. So many cabinet ministers.

Mr. Nixon: The honourable minister, the member for Wentworth (Mr. Dean), was present but he did not shoulder his way on to the stage. Actually, I do not want to be critical because I do not feel critical. It was a great event.

As a matter of fact, a committee headed by the Indians themselves, with substantial assistance from people in the city of Brantford and the surrounding community, had collected money from all over the country to refurbish this frame church, which is the oldest Protestant church in Canada by far; it was built 200 years ago.

Mr. Worton: Anglican.

Mr. Nixon: It is Anglican. My friend from Guelph points that out, being one of the many Liberal Anglicans I know. It is beautifully refurbished and the Indians are properly proud of it.

In a place of honour is the communion service that was presented to the Indians by Queen Anne almost 200 years ago. The fact that Her Majesty was able to come there, assist and take part in the rededication of the chapel was a great event. Everybody there, particularly the Indians, recognized it as such. I just want to be sure the member understands that while there were many great events, including the state dinner we attended with Her Majesty, that in my view should be seen by a reasonable observer to be one of the greatest. We were absolutely pleased and delighted.

I have another piece of information for you, Mr. Speaker. Because of certain changes in our caucus, I now find myself having the great honour and special responsibility of being Treasury critic. I was hoping to get Education, but that is too important. The Treasurer was walking down the hall surrounded by a group of Tory back-benchers who looked to me as if they were forming a campaign committee. I do not know whether that was so. He was just going down to the great caucus room they have just across the hall from my office. There were such great rounds of applause and cheering that I thought he might have made his announcement already, but I guess that was not the case.

I noticed in the paper that when asked about it, the Treasurer said it was a very serious matter—I am paraphrasing—and he would have to go home and consult with his wife and family. There is some doubt as to whether he is going to be a candidate. I can see he is wondering about it because it is an extremely heavy responsibility

and he might feel somehow inadequate to take it on without a lot of consideration.

I notice there are several people over there acting with a more serious demeanour than is customary. I was glad to see the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton) so free and easy and smiling. It is an indication that he is not worrying about anything. The Minister of Education, however, does look tense and concerned.

Actually, it is interesting to watch because one of my favourite ministers—and I really like them all—is the member for Carleton-Grenville (Mr. Sterling). He is quite a good fellow. He is not too good on freedom of information and a few things such as that, but he is a very personable guy. I noticed even during question period, which was pretty much to the point—important and interesting right from start to finish, I thought—the minister was going to the prospective candidates, one by one, and one could see they were deeply involved in important discussions.

He was talking to the Minister of Natural Resources (Mr. Pope), he of the well-coiffed hairdo. They have a new barber in Timmins or wherever. He is all set to go. He is an interesting person. He is different. He is aggressive. He takes a different approach to things such as his estimates and he does not mind getting some criticism from time to time.

5:50 p.m.

Some of the ministers, such as the Minister of Education, are so put out by criticism that they just cannot live with anything but a bunch of sycophants from the ministry saying, "Yes, Minister; yes, Minister." I think it is unhealthy when ministers are in office too long. A period in opposition would be good for the minister's soul; it really would. So we are planning to do her a favour. Just wait for it. It will not be long.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Do not do me any favours. Just pronounce the words properly.

Mr. Nixon: Baloney; sycophant. You mispronounce digoxin.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: No, I do not.

Mr. Nixon: Oh yes, you do. I am worried about the leadership in education that we have in this province. There are even spelling mistakes that I sometimes see in the minister's speeches.

Interjections.

Mr. Nixon: I am very concerned about this. I see the member for Carleton-Grenville moving from prospective candidate to prospective candidate. The member for Don Mills (Mr. Timbrell) is annoyed at me. I said he was the worst Minister

of Education we have had in 20 years and he did not like that.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: He has never been the Minister of Education.

Mr. Nixon: I meant Minister of Agriculture and Food.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is what you said about me, not about Dennis.

Mr. Nixon: No. I never said that about the Minister of Education. Actually, I am one of her many defenders on this side. I think we like her better than some of her colleagues, because she gets them into trouble all the time.

Hon. Mr. Dean: That is not so.

Mr. Nixon: Anyway, we actually saw the Minister of Education in the news a week or two ago. Members will remember that time, when they were asking her about separate schools and whether people who were not Catholic could go in. She did not say, "The Premier told me what is going on." She has never said that, and a lot of people think he does not tell her. I do not know whether that is true or not.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: That is not true.

Mr. Nixon: It is or is it not true? Actually, we got the distinct impression when the Premier made his announcement about separate schools, that 180-degree volte-face, that the minister herself had just said a day or two before that somebody else was setting back the cause of separate schools by many months, in fact, years.

I cannot quote her directly, but I felt kind of bad about the situation because the Premier does this from time to time. I have a feeling that hardly anybody in the caucus knew what he was going to do before he spoke to them, just above five minutes before he came in here and decided his position on the separate schools had changed.

My own feeling is that in spite of that kind of personal rejection, which must irritate the Minister of Education, she should set that aside and think seriously about the leadership. The Tories are looking for a good woman. There she is, a fighter—

Mr. Watson: At least we have some in our caucus.

Mr. Nixon: We are working on it. We have watched the minister's political career with interest, of course.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Just wait until Lily joins you.

Mr. Nixon: I am glad the minister is prepared to accept the fact that she will, because Dr. Munro will be a great addition to our caucus, and

so will another 50 members whom we are looking forward to.

I know the House leader of the New Democratic Party is anxious to get talking about the nationalization of—

Hon. Miss Stephenson: Is he going to talk about Inco?

Mr. Nixon: Perhaps. Just so we can round out the clock—I see the government House leader is coming in to do his duty—I should probably say I am looking forward to my responsibilities as Treasury critic. I feel the Treasurer is going to be more vulnerable perhaps than he has been even in the past. It may be that he will not be present as much as we would like, but it is extremely important that we ride herd on his statements.

As a matter of fact, I well recall that the budget a few months ago was based more than anything else on new initiatives for youth employment. I was interested to see that on Friday, Statistics Canada released the labour force data for September 1984. Its report says, "In Ontario the unemployment rate among those aged 15 to 24 years increased from 12.2 per cent in August to 14.9 per cent." This is particularly difficult to understand when during September many of the people who would have been on the unemployed list have returned to school. It means the level of employment has gone down seriously. The actual number of unemployed young people in Ontario is now standing, according to Statistics Canada, at 156,000.

I think members are aware that at the time of the budget, the Treasurer brought forward a 10-point program, which he said was going to come to grips with this matter. I have the feeling he considered that not only a vehicle to correct one of the most serious problems in the employment situation in this province but also one that he could pedal along in his leadership campaign. After all, there is nothing like going out as a politician and saying one is doing things for young people. We all agree education and opportunities for young people are among the principal reasons we are here and doing our duty.

In bringing my remarks to a close, I simply want to say that the Treasurer appears to have failed dismally in this as his principal responsibility. One of the things I regret is that he has taken such an outstanding Canadian as Ken Dryden, brought him into his ministry, set him up in an office and not properly supported him.

The financing for most of these 10 programs has not been forthcoming in a way that would enable them to be established during the summer months and into the fall when they are so

desperately needed. I have a feeling the same 10 programs will be announced on more than one occasion in the future.

Once again I serve notice to you, Mr. Speaker, and to the Treasurer in his absence—he is meeting with his committee even now, no doubt—that this is one matter we are not going to let him get away with. We have 156,000 young people in Ontario who are not in school and who cannot be gainfully employed. This is a matter of utmost urgency and one that all of us as members of this Legislature must apply ourselves to solving.

I resume my seat with my thanks to you, sir, for your kind attention. We look forward to an interesting few months as the Progressive Conservative Party selects a new leader and as we approach the now-delayed election in Ontario. My colleagues and I have no doubt about the outcome. We expect to win the responsibility of government and are prepared to do so.

While members may feel my comments today have been more critical than they would wish, there are many people on the other side to tell the ministers how great they are. That is one of their problems. They were warned against inhaling that stuff; unfortunately, most of them have not heard the warning soon enough. It will be up to us as the official opposition to continue to put forward the positive alternatives in concepts, principles and new people with new ideas. We face the future with confidence and enthusiasm.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, I notice the time, but I would like to make three quick points and then adjourn the debate.

I was wondering what the Liberal position is now that my friend the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini), who used to scream for 30 for 22, moved way down there. I am not sure what position the Liberal Party is about to take. I am wondering whether it wants 30 for 27. I do not know. I just thought I would throw that in; maybe the honourable member will answer.

Second, when my friend was speaking and referred to George III, the interjection was "Turnip George." I thought that was how George III was known historically as he led the United States into its great revolution and separation from England.

Finally, I would like to quote a rather famous Liberal friend of the former Liberal leader from Ontario, Eric Kierans. I believe he once said when he did the report for the Manitoba government then headed by Ed Schreyer: "You cannot nationalize what you already own. You just take back the possession to operate it yourself." I am paraphrasing what Eric Keirans

said. I read his book seven or eight times. It was so inspiring I had to read it seven or eight times. He said the only way a state could benefit from its resources was if the state processed the resources itself. That was from none other than Eric Kierans.

On motion by Mr. Martel, the debate was adjourned.

The House adjourned at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*
 (120 members)

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

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|---|---|
| <p>Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP)
 Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Energy (Lincoln PC)
 Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government Services (Durham West PC)
 Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and Recreation (Ottawa West PC)
 Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC)
 Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC)
 Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs (Kenora PC)
 Birch, M. (Scarborough East PC)
 Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L)
 Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
 Breough, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
 Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L)
 Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
 Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
 Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L)
 Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
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*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

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Worton, H. (Wellington South L)



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, August 29, 1984

Evening Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, August 29, 1984

The House resumed at 8 p.m.

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION, GRAY COACH LINES, LIMITED AND GO TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT ACT (concluded)

Resuming the debate on the motion for second reading of Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines, Limited and GO Transit and Locals 113 and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on Bill 125 with a sense of terrible irony. The Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) in introducing the bill, the Premier (Mr. Davis) in speaking earlier this week about the need for such a piece of legislation, and my colleagues on all sides of the House have invoked as one of the reasons, and perhaps in many ways the main reason for our being here, the prevention of a disturbance or inconvenience of any kind—however one wants to express it—while the Pope is visiting Toronto.

I say “with a sense of terrible irony” because Karol Wojtyla, better known as Pope John Paul II, would be the last man in the world who would support what we are doing here. All through his life in Poland as a young man, particularly during the Nazi occupation of his country, and later through the Communist Russian occupation of his country, Karol Wojtyla stood for certain fundamental things: the rights of people and a balance of rights at all times. He was one of those in our world who never believed that rights were limitless for anyone. One always had to consider rights on both sides of most issues. Eventually one had to come down one way or the other, but one had at least to consider them.

When Karol Wojtyla was a parish priest, and when he was named a bishop, later an archbishop and still later a cardinal in his native Poland, there were two groups of people in particular that he more often than not associated with and in whose company he felt comfortable. They were students and workers. That was a little ironic,

too, because often there is a conflict between those two groups of people in our society. It is something I regret but it is here anyway.

Wojtyla managed to bridge that conflict. He managed to get these two groups of people in Polish society to understand the role each had to play. He brought them to have a respect for one another rather than to be in conflict with one another.

Here we are in Ontario in August 1984 anticipating the visit to our city and to our province of this man, the spiritual leader of the faith of which I am a member, a spiritual leader of whom I am very proud, a spiritual leader whose sense of direction I try to follow to the best of my ability and not always very well, but a spiritual leader whom I think I understand just a little bit; and I am very uneasy about being here today.

As a matter of fact, I am a little angry as well; not angry because this Legislature is recalled and I have a job to do here—no, I do not mean that—but angry because I think there is a small sense of dishonesty, a small sense of fraud in why we are here. We are being asked to make decisions, to debate legislation about something which should not be the issue and I am not even sure really is the issue. I have a sense of anger that the spiritual leader of my faith may even be being used—inadvertently, I hope, but being used anyway—being manipulated in what I think is a fraudulent way.

I would say once again if Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II, had a say in what we are doing here he would not approve of it. He has gone back to his native Poland since he was made Pope; he has spoken to the leaders of Solidarity, the labour movement in Poland; he has spoken to the Communist leaders of Poland and made very clear where he stands with respect to the rights of workers. I have a strong sense that stand would not differ whether it were made in Poland or Ontario or Toronto. That is something we have to keep in mind if we are going to use that as our reason. That is why I feel the irony, that is why I feel the anger, and that is why I have a sad sense of dishonesty about this whole piece of legislation when that is being used.

I do not think that is really why we are here at all. That is not why we are here at all in my judgement. Let us look at the history. In the past decade, in the past 10 years the workers of the Toronto transit system have either gone on strike or voted for a strike three times. What happened?

In 1974 the strike was allowed to proceed for 23 days before the Legislature stepped in and put a stop to it. That really does not seem too unreasonable. I strongly suspect that had I been a member of this Legislature in 1974 I probably would have voted in support of that.

8:10 p.m.

There was a bargaining process that took place. The strike took place. It lasted beyond three weeks. Probably by that time things would not have got any better. I do not know; I can only speculate as to what might have been. I can understand that, and if things had proceeded that way over the next couple of times, I do not think very many of us in here would have been very upset about it.

But the next time there was a Toronto transit strike I was a member of this Legislature. That was in 1978. That strike was allowed to proceed not for 23 days or 20 or 18 or 15; it was allowed to proceed for four days. Now in 1984, 10 years after the first reference I just made, we have the third time that the workers of the Toronto Transit Commission—as has been clearly identified by several previous speakers strictly within their rights, within the laws of Ontario, the laws that we as members of this Legislature as well as everyone else are bound to uphold—have taken a strike vote.

I do not stand in any of their shoes; I have no way of knowing why they chose to act the way they did. But they had a right to do so, they did it within the law and they did it freely within the collective bargaining system, within the law of this province. They have the right to bargain, they have the right to choose not to accept their employer's offer, regardless of what anyone else feels is fair or unfair—that is not the issue here; they have the right to refuse it under our present laws—and in refusing it they have the right to vote to go on strike. Whether we like it or not, that is their right.

I spoke earlier about the basic principle that no right is limitless. There are times when the rights that accrue to any one of us individually or to any group of us collectively may have to be limited for a greater good. But whenever we do that we had better be very careful of why we do it, because each time we do it we send out a message from this assembly, we create an image of what

this assembly's decision-making process is all about, and we had better be very careful when and why we do it.

I am not at all sure that this time we are going about it in the proper fashion, because this time we are saying to those workers that although they have acted completely within their rights, we are not going to allow them to proceed even to stage one. They are not going to be able to go on strike even for one day this time, never mind four days or 23 days. We are saying none.

I spoke earlier about a sense of dishonesty, because surely what this legislation is saying, what the statement of the Minister of Labour this afternoon said, is that this government in this province in this city will not tolerate a strike under any circumstances. That is why I spoke of the earlier fraud, the earlier dishonesty in linking it to the visit of Pope John Paul II.

All we have to look at are the reasons in the minister's statement. Let me share them briefly with members once again. Beginning on page 10 of the minister's statement he says, "TTC serves a metropolitan community of over two million people." He goes on to say, "Different levels of government have encouraged reliance on public transit," and further that it is "the key to a habitable environment." For those reasons we cannot permit a strike. Whether the Pope were coming or not, would those facts still be true? Most of my colleagues, even on the other side of the House, would say yes.

We continue: the minister says this strike could create a personal hardship. It could make it difficult for people attending work. It could be difficult for the elderly. Whether the papal visit to Ontario takes place or not, do any of these factors change? I think not.

The minister goes on in his statement, on page 12, that a strike would compromise normal traffic; that it would make difficult the movement of emergency vehicles; that if we were to have a serious fire or any other kind of emergency we would have a problem. Would the papal visit make any difference to any of these? Again, I think not.

Then comes the real issue at stake in the minds of the government and in the mind of the minister. They refer to the potential economic losses as being staggering. The minister mentions a list of them. I will not read them. They are available for everyone to read. That is really what this legislation is all about.

In his summary the minister goes on to say that the government believes this is a responsible course of action because the public health,

safety, economic wellbeing and convenience of the community are at stake.

What are we to believe? Are we to believe the strike vote that has already taken place will not be allowed to proceed because exactly two days after it begins there is to be a papal visit to this province? Is that what we are to believe? That is what the Premier said. That is what the minister alluded to—not very extensively, I admit.

The Toronto daily newspapers, the television news tonight and the radio news this morning all alluded to it. That is the—

Hon. Mr. Ashe: What about the cardinal?

Mr. Sweeney: I was just about to say to the Minister of Government Services (Mr. Ashe) that the public perception alludes to this as being the reason as well. That is where the dishonesty and fraud come in, because that is not what we are all about. Otherwise, why this statement referring to emergency vehicles, economic losses, the difficulty of the elderly in getting around, and referring to students? That is the reason it is being done.

Now we come to the third point. If we were really being honest in this, this government should be prepared to say straight out—because it is certainly saying it in a dozen other ways—that it does not believe there should be a strike, period. It should say it does not believe the transit workers in this city and this province should be allowed to strike, period.

If that is what it wants to say, if that is what it really means, then I would like it to have the guts to come out and say it. Then we would be able to deal with the situation on a level of honesty. Then we would know what we were voting about.

8:20 p.m.

I am not suggesting by that statement that I agree that is the case, not at all; but at least we would know what we were dealing with, at least we would be on a level where everyone would know what the issue really was.

That is not the legislation before us. We do not have a bill before us that says straightforwardly and honestly what we are doing here. We have before us a bill that tries to accomplish by the back door what the government and the minister are not prepared to do by the front door.

We have to understand clearly what we are voting about in this bill. What we are being presented with is something that is dishonest and fraudulent. For that reason I am not able to support this legislation.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, as a Toronto resident, I can understand the concern of the

people of Metropolitan Toronto about the possibility of a transit strike. I can certainly understand the worries of senior citizens who have no car and depend on public transit to get around. I can also understand the fears of workers and students that they will not be able to get to their jobs and schools. I shudder at the thought of the congestion and mass traffic jams we would face.

I can also share the deep concern of Metro residents, both Catholic and non-Catholic, that the papal visit will be disrupted. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see the Holy Father and hear his message of peace and justice. We want to be proud of our welcome to him.

Why then am I and my party unhappy with Bill 125? None of us wants a transit strike. The main reason is that we think the bill is premature. We feel there is another route to preventing a strike. It is a much preferable route and it could be taken immediately by the provincial government before it applies this kind of sledgehammer legislation.

The failure to achieve a settlement must be laid squarely at the door of the provincial government. That has been the real roadblock that has let the TTC take the flak for appearing inflexible. We should remember that in 1982 the provincial government imposed a five per cent ceiling on wage increases for all public sector employees through Bill 179. Collective bargaining on wage issues or any form of compensation was effectively killed by that bill.

In October 1983, the Supreme Court of Ontario declared aspects of that bill violated the Charter of Rights, particularly the freedom of association clause. So in 1983 the government made a great noise about the restoration of collective bargaining in its second restraint bill. It even called the 1983 restraint bill an act for an orderly transition to the resumption of full collective bargaining.

This time it did not impose a mandatory ceiling. Instead, it gave the Treasurer (Mr. Grossman) power to set criteria for acceptable increases. The Treasurer used this power to set a five per cent guideline and notified municipalities, school boards and other public agencies that their transfer payments for wage increases would be limited to a maximum of five per cent.

In theory, local bodies could negotiate settlement above the five per cent, but they would have to find the extra money from some other source or reduce other expenditures. Such adjustments

would not be easy with tight budgets but they were possible.

In fact, though, the bill really meant a continuation of the freeze on collective bargaining by the back door. It was a cruel hoax on public sector workers, who faced a second year of restraint and no true freedom to bargain.

This is what happened to the TTC workers. The TTC took the position that it was not allowed to go above the five per cent guideline. Bargaining stopped at that level. The private sector was still free to bargain to any level agreeable to both parties. Executives in the private sector were still able to give themselves wage increases of 10 and 12 per cent, and auto executives were able to raise their salaries to obscene amounts of \$500,000.

No wonder the TTC workers felt unfairly treated after two years of five per cent ceilings and being discriminated against because they were public sector employees. They were really second-class citizens under this legislation.

During the negotiations, the government did nothing to tell members of the TTC they were misinterpreting Bill 111. It did nothing to tell them they should have restored full collective bargaining to TTC employees as promised. It let the TTC continue to pretend its hands were tied and further collective bargaining was impossible.

The only real solution to this impasse is for the government to get the parties back to the bargaining table immediately. This has already been proposed by my leader and by other speakers, but I want to emphasize this route must be tried, with full provincial conciliation and mediation services if needed.

The government must urge the TTC to consider some further adjustment in wages and working conditions which might achieve a settlement. It must make it clear that reasonable adjustments would not be disallowed as they have not been in other cases where negotiations produced settlements above the five per cent.

It might even offer the TTC some additional provincial grants since provincial funding of transit costs is way below what most other North American cities of the same size as Toronto receive. It should remember that good public transit also saves the province money in road construction and pollution control costs.

I urge the government to work for a real negotiated settlement. I am confident one could be reached and that it would end any possibility of a strike at this time. It would be an infinitely better way of achieving the necessary objective of avoiding a strike.

In addition, it would do two very important things. First, it would avoid precedent-setting legislation which destroys collective bargaining rights and which provides the employees affected with no compensating guarantee of fair treatment. Second, it would do an immense amount to overcome the resentment and ill will that is poisoning relations between the TTC and its employees. A negotiated settlement would be the best example that Metro could show to the Pope of our commitment to human rights and fairness in labour relations in this jurisdiction.

I appeal to the government to try this route immediately and to regard this legislation before us as contingency legislation to be implemented only in the event of a failure to reach a settlement in the next few days. I ask the government to remember that legislation which takes away basic rights on an ad hoc basis should have no part in the agenda of a democratic government. I ask it to consider our reasonable alternative, which I am confident could succeed.

8:30 p.m.

Mr. Van Horne: Mr. Speaker, my comments will be brief, and I hope to the point.

I make these comments as a former Labour critic for our party, as a former public relations officer for a teachers' federation to which I was proud to belong, and beyond that, as an elected member who is very concerned about what is happening in this whole process.

First off, let me say that as a member of a teachers' federation more than 25 years ago when teachers had to fight, scrap and struggle for every bit of recognition they got monetarily and every other way, I can appreciate the concern of any group of workers or people who have to band together to try to make themselves heard.

That attitude, which developed over the years as I worked for the federation, was underlined when I became Labour critic for our party and headed a labour task force which travelled in northern, southern and eastern Ontario to try to gather the views of the workers' representatives, of labour in general and of management.

I came away with the very distinct feeling there are very few tools the rank and file have to help them to succeed, if not survive, in their day-to-day tasks on the job.

Mr. Laughren: What does that mean?

Mr. Van Horne: What I perceive here is a very heavy hand of government—

Mr. Laughren: However, he will endorse that heavy hand.

Mr. Van Horne: I am not inclined to look to the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), who is so adept at interjections when he does not have to carry the pail and when he can sit in the background. Someone earlier—I believe it may have been his own leader—used the analogy of the Charlie McCarthy syndrome. I submitted that perhaps he was the Mortimer Snerd of the New Democratic Party.

I will have to carry on ignoring his comments, if I can—it will be difficult because he is rather boisterous on occasion—and go to the issue of collective bargaining. It grieves me to see collective bargaining abused as it is being abused in this situation.

Mr. Laughren: Tell us about it.

Mr. Van Horne: I would like to shift for a moment and let those who are opposed sink in their own whatever, and submit to the House that I will have to support this legislation very reluctantly. I underline “very reluctantly.”

Mr. Laughren: Are you opposed to this abuse?

Mr. Van Horne: Having said that, I expect the member for Nickel Belt will dry up and blow away, but maybe that is expecting too much.

Mr. Laughren: I may dry up, but I will not blow away.

Mr. Van Horne: Let me submit to the House what I said a moment ago in perhaps slightly different words. The abuse of the collective bargaining process, as it is being addressed here in this chamber, concerns me and my party.

Mr. Laughren: However, you will support it.

Mr. Van Horne: I would like to add that the member for Nickel Belt, the New Democratic Party, the government—and yes, the opposition—collectively perhaps do not have all the answers.

Beyond that, let me submit that any of the members who are knowledgeable about the events of our community and our province may have read a document called Ethical Reflections on the Economic Crisis, a document which got considerable notoriety not too many months ago. One of the sentences that comes into this very thoughtful presentation reflects on the suspension of collective bargaining rights for public sector workers, and it speaks very much against that. Of course, that is the paper presented by the bishops of our community.

It is interesting to note, in support of what I submitted a while ago, that neither the NDP nor perhaps any of the three parties had all of the answers. I refer to the headline “Carter Rejects

Bishops’ Blast on Economy.” The member for Bellwoods (Mr. McClellan), with his all-knowing grin and his sneer, at times shows this chamber some disregard because he handles us all with such wonderful disdain. The member for Nickel Belt lets his political leanings run amok with his rational approach to the problems of this province. If everything were to be handled by those two Yo-Yos, with their simplistic approach to politics, we would not have to be here at all. I submit to the members that both of these gentlemen are irrelevant and should be ignored, and I trust Hansard will treat them in the same manner.

Having said that, I again repeat that no one political party, no one group—and I include the workers, the management, the three political parties and the church—has all the answers. I am very disappointed that the government does not take situations such as this as a possibility before they happen. We have seen two situations—

Mr. Laughren: However, you will support it.

Mr. Van Horne: Dry up. Simply dry up.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Mr. Van Horne: The member is an annoyance. Mr. Speaker, I have the floor and I expect to be heard without interjections that are irrelevant from the member for Nickel Belt or the member for Bellwoods.

Having said that, and knowing full well they will carry on with their diatribe, let me add the conclusion to the point I was about to make, and that is simply that the government, with its mandate to govern, with its mandate to lead, has missed an opportunity in not calling together all groups concerned for a full and open debate on issues such as this.

I could add other situations into the proposition that would make my case more arguable, if it has to be made more arguable. A paper I have recently read, a paper presented by Mr. Stewart, who is involved with the Energy and Chemical Workers Union in London, Ontario, makes reference to the implications of technology as it relates to the labour market and the whole labour-management process. If we consider, for example, the phenomenon of robotics, which we did not even think about 20 years ago, that is now presenting real concerns to labour, management and government in this province of ours.

Having said that, and having again taken a look at the problems we are facing right now with this particular situation here in Ontario, I point out to the government in the strongest possible terms that it is incumbent on them as supposed leaders, as governors, to call together the leaders

of labour and of management, the three political parties in this province, federal politicians, the church and any other concerned parties to review fully the problems that are facing the worker in our community. I say this in all sincerity. I say this in spite of very reluctantly voting for this bill. This is distasteful, but unfortunately it must be.

8:40 p.m.

In conclusion, I submit the government has ignored suggestions made from time to time by my party and my colleagues. I recall very briefly the legislation suggested by my colleague the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty), who has presented for many years a bill entitled An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act, which basically calls for a 60-day suspension—in other words, a cooling-off period. That has been ignored.

I could go on, but I will not do so because I assured my colleagues and our whip I would not be too long this evening. I would submit the government has been negligent, that it has missed the opportunity to lead, to call together those who might be able to provide alternatives and assistance to the workers in this province.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a few remarks to make, but I would like to be assured I will have the floor and will not be heckled by the Liberal caucus when I make my remarks.

Mr. Speaker: I must point out—and I think you all know—every member has a right to speak, but whether they will be heard or not is a decision of all members.

Mr. Laughren: I am most distressed by this legislation. I think it is clear from the remarks of my colleagues that collectively we are very much distressed by it. What bothers us more as the day goes on is to hear the expressions from the other opposition party in this Legislature. It professes to be concerned, but on the other hand it can hardly wait to support the legislation.

It seems to me one of the cornerstones of a democratic society, measured not just by democratic socialists but by many people around the world, is the right of labour to bargain collectively. I think that is not a radical view of what a free society is all about, but rather one that is rather widely held. When I see this right being taken away I do not take it lightly.

I know it is extremely easy to do. This government could hardly wait; it was salivating while it awaited the outcome of the second vote of the transit workers. Did the government insist on returning to some hard-nosed bargaining? It did not insist. Why did it not insist? I will leave that up to the individual's imagination, but it

does not take too much imagination to understand why it was salivating as it awaited the outcome of that vote.

When I think of the kind of society I live in the phrase that often comes to my mind is "peace, order and good government." I think of that phrase in a way that perhaps this government does not. I think of it in terms of competing interests but interests that compete in a very democratic way. When the government thinks of peace, order and good government, it thinks of a tranquil kind of society in which there is no conflict, no protest. Of course, that would include no one withholding one's labour; no one would ever have to resort to a strike.

I do not know what kind of Utopian world this government lives in, but that is not about to happen. It seems to me the government today is saying to Ontario people that we want to have a very tranquil society, an orderly society and we are not going to tolerate conflict—of the nature of a strike, for example.

The preamble to the bill states, "...and whereas strikes by the unions against the employers would cause a cessation of the operation of public transportation facilities, rendering travel difficult and endangering the public safety," etc., and it makes reference to the public interest.

Where is this all going to end? This afternoon during question period when I rose in my place to ask the Minister of Labour what he thought about the strike at the Sudbury Star which was six months long—it has already been in place six months—the minister replied, "I am quite distressed at the length of the work stoppage and the difficulties in finding a resolution to the circumstances." He had no difficulty finding a resolution to the circumstances in the dispute between the transit workers and the Toronto Transit Commission.

He went on to say: "...when there is a dispute, I will not comment on the positions taken by the two parties, the offers made by either of the parties or the responses to the offers. Particularly in cases where the positions seem to be locked in, collective bargaining is difficult and sensitive enough without making third-party comments in this Legislature." The heaviest third-party comment I have ever witnessed in my days here is this particular bill, Bill 125. For the minister to talk about not wanting to make comments on disputes is total nonsense.

It is very easy for the minister and his government to invoke legislation such as this because it does not even matter if the opposition

happens to be opposed to the government, as we are. The government would still have the right and the power to impose the legislation. What are the minister's views on future negotiations? Does the minister not have some sense there is some connection between what has happened in the past with transit strikes in Metropolitan Toronto and what is happening today?

Does the minister really think he can go on? Previously, if there was a strike, he negotiated them back. Now if there is a threat of a strike, he negotiates them back. I really wonder what the minister sees down the road for collective bargaining between the transit workers and the TTC.

Mr. Charlton: Next time he will legislate them back when they threaten to bargain.

Mr. Laughren: That is right. This is anti-bargaining legislation. My colleague the member for Hamilton Mountain (Mr. Charlton) makes the point that the next time, if they threaten to bargain he will legislate the workers back.

I read from the bill again. Clause 8(1)(b) says, "...no employee, member, officer, official or agent of the employers or the unions or of any one of them shall engage in, declare, threaten, authorize or acquiesce in a strike, lockout or picketing."

He cannot acquiesce; cannot acquiesce in a strike or picketing? Acquiesce seems to me to be noninvolvement. Perhaps my understanding of the English language could be better, but perhaps when the minister replies he could tell me what that means.

Clause 8(1)(c) says, "...no person shall counsel, procure, support or encourage a strike, lockout or picketing contrary to this part and no person shall do any act if the person knows or ought to know that, as a probable and reasonable consequence of the act, another person or persons will engage in a strike or lockout contrary to this part."

I want to know what kind of wisdom the minister has, will have, intends to have or hopes to have regarding what people ought to know. I suppose he will use the argument that ignorance of the law will be no excuse for not knowing the law. I am very worried about the path on which this government has launched itself in labour negotiations in Ontario.

8:50 p.m.

I would like him to tell me why in future disputes either side should settle without third-party involvement. Perhaps the minister could tell me. I do not want to interrupt the minister and

the member for Cambridge (Mr. Barlow), so I will—

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I am listening.

Mr. Laughren: I am sure he is listening.

I would like to know why he thinks either side would be serious about settling in tough, hard-nosed negotiations next time there is a dispute. I can recall when there was a secondary school teachers' strike in Sudbury some years ago, about five years ago, I believe. During that strike members of this party sat here and said to the Minister of Education we thought the two sides should settle it through the process of negotiations. It was tough bargaining. They were out on strike for three months.

The then leader of the Ontario Liberal Party was on his feet in this House day after day suggesting they should be legislated back to work. Every time the leader of the Ontario Liberal Party made that statement, it became more and more difficult to settle at the local level because they felt: "Why should we bother? The government will intervene?" I believe the present Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) understands that. I am not sure the present Minister of Labour does understand that.

Mr. Kerrio: That is ridiculous.

Mr. Laughren: The member may call it ridiculous, but it was very clear in the community that every time the Ontario Liberal Party intervened it became increasingly unlikely the two sides would settle the issue by themselves. That dispute was needlessly prolonged by the intervention of the Ontario Liberal Party. There is absolutely no doubt about that.

It is always very easy to find the instant solution. It is always so simple to find the instant, easy solution, but in the long run that does not do either side a service.

Mr. Kerrio: You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Laughren: You will not, but you should. You are not doing yourselves a service on this issue either.

Mr. Kerrio: You cannot have it both ways.

Mr. Laughren: When I hear members of the Liberal caucus stand up and bemoan the fact that this is happening, I do not understand what they are talking about at all. They simply do not know either.

Mr. Kerrio: The minister is over there.

Mr. Laughren: If I were to ask the Minister of Labour one question it would be, before he brought in this legislation—

Interjections.

The Deputy Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt has the floor. His colleagues could let him continue.

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, it is good to have an ally in the chair. If I were to ask the Minister of Labour one question it would be does he feel that before he brought in this legislation absolutely everything had been done to make the introduction of this legislation unnecessary?

Given the fact this is August 29 and the date for the strike was September 12, I find it hard to believe everything necessary has been done in that those people were not put together with an assist from the Minister of Labour to have it resolved. I simply do not believe anything has been done. I still believe there would be time to resolve it.

I ask myself, what is the right to strike, whether it is in the public sector or in the private sector? That is what I would ask members of the government and members of the Liberal caucus to ask themselves. What is the right to strike in a society which says that it is legal for this particular group of workers? Is the act of striking an act of civil disobedience? Is it an act of pique? Is it an act of disloyalty, an act of self-destruction? Is it unpatriotic or is it subversive?

If they feel it is one of those, then let them stand in their places and say so. Let them say that to engage in withholding one's labour is to do one of those things. Let them stand in their places and have the courage to say that. If they do not think that is what it is, let them say so and say that it is an inconvenience to the public.

They cannot have it both ways. It seems to me they are having it both ways, but I very much resent the fact that they have. Let them make up their minds over there. Do they think people should have the right to withhold their labour or do they not? When they do not, for heaven's sake, let them have the courage to put it in legislation and bring it before this Legislature for proper debate.

This kind of charade they are engaging in now is dishonest. It is fundamentally dishonest. They say these people have the right to withhold their labour and then, as soon as they even express the desire to utilize that, they take it away from them. That is something they are going to have to explain to me. I do not understand it.

I would assume that when the next provincial election is called the Minister of Labour will be prepared to campaign across the province on the question of who has the right to withhold his labour and who does not. I would hope he would

have the courage to do it in a forthright manner, rather than saying, "We will give everyone the right to withhold their labour until they threaten to do so." That is what he has done now, and I cannot think of a more dishonest approach to labour negotiations in any jurisdiction.

I shall not go on, but I believe that at some point this government is going to reap the harvest of its antilabour legislation. The very application of Bill 111 to this bill is fundamentally wrong. The remarks of my colleague the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick) were most appropriate, and I hope the Minister of Labour will take them seriously and will take a look at the amendments that will be proposed.

I want to tell the minister, as someone who represents a community which is basically a labour community and is highly unionized, that when I see this kind of legislation and when people talk to me about this legislation in the Sudbury community, I say to them, "Just ask yourselves who is next under this government."

This government has absolutely no compulsion about taking away from anyone the right to withhold his labour, because it is not based on a principle. At some point I believe international organizations are going to be looking at this kind of legislation in Ontario and will be embarrassing this jurisdiction.

As I said at the very beginning, I really believe one of the fundamentals of a free society is the right of people to withhold their labour. This government does not seem to take that very seriously.

Mr. Mackenzie: I will be very brief and I will be winding up this part of the debate, at least as far as my party is concerned.

I want to say to members of the House and I want to say specifically to the Minister of Labour and to the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch), who is here, that we had a long and bitter debate on Bill 179 and on Bill 111. I remember some of the comments on Bill 111 in particular in this House better than a year ago. I remember some of the things that were said by my leader. I remember some of the things I said in the course of that debate.

One of the things I said at the time, and we had some snickering and "it is not so" remarks from across the House, was that what they were buying was trouble, what they were buying was a basic undermining of free collective bargaining. One of the things the members across the floor claimed was that Bill 111 actually opened up the right of workers to bargain again after Bill 179. That was not true. The workers in Ontario, and in

the public sector in particular, were misled by those kinds of remarks.

There was a balance. We said what the members opposite were saying was not factual. Bill 125 is a direct result of Bill 111 and it proves that what we said at that time was right on.

We said if there was in place legislation that says one can bargain, but the government is going to set the guidelines or decide what the transfers are, then it makes a farce out of collective bargaining. If the government is going to go further than that and instruct arbitrators to take into consideration local economic circumstances, then it compounds the problem.

9 p.m.

I very much fear we are heading for controlled arbitration in this province—and there seems to be some indication of it from some of the Premier's remarks—and it scares the hell out of me, quite frankly. This legislation is an abomination. There is no reason for it. There is no reason to make the matter worse. That is what the government is doing with this legislation. Now it is workers in Ontario in the public sector—but we have to ask the question: how long before the government broadens that to other sectors? The government is clearly saying, "You do not have the right to free collective bargaining."

I could read the preamble in the Labour Relations Act. There have been a lot of comments that indicate the concern that many people, not only the New Democrats in the province, are now beginning to articulate about where this government is going and why it has so completely lost confidence in the free collective bargaining process.

I thought an appropriate remark was made by a gentleman I do not know who was quoted in this morning's *Globe and Mail*. "Bernard Adell, a law professor at Queen's University, said Premier William Davis' decision to prohibit a strike before it occurs 'shows how little faith the government has in the collective bargaining process.'" What other message are workers in the province getting?

Unfortunately, the government may be playing a bit to a popular, reactionary—I think that is the proper word—atmosphere that is abroad in the land today, although we are going to see that change rather dramatically over the next period of time. It seems to be popular today to lay the blame for all kinds of problems on the backs of workers. The comment was made by some of our speakers that it seems to be popular today to kick unions or working people. Or if somebody is lucky enough to get \$10 or \$12 an hour they like

to use that to go after him in front of somebody who is making only \$7 or \$8 or \$9 an hour.

I am saying to the Minister of Labour that this is exactly what the government of Ontario is doing in supporting this kind of legislation. It is trying to divide workers, trying to deny them basic rights. It is an extremely dangerous road to be on.

Does it get easier? This is the third time now; there were Bills 179, 111 and now 125. Does it get easier every time the government kicks workers in the guts and brings in restrictive legislation? I am told this happens, the more one does something. Forgive me. That is exactly what it is doing with this legislation.

I cannot understand it. The government uses the Pope's visit as the excuse. It is a major event; certainly, my family wants very much to take part in the visit of the Pope. I want to suggest to the minister that he is dealing with two important days. I do not think he has an emergency with safety or public order. He is dealing with two days in Toronto and sentencing the workers who are stuck with his kind of controlled contract for the lifetime—a year or whatever it is—of that contract. They are paying a pretty stiff price for the kind of security or additional facilities he wants for two days. I am not sure, given the ill-will that will be promoted by this legislation, that he is going to achieve that during that two-day period. It concerns me and it should concern the minister.

I do not think there is anything else at stake in this House. All the arguments we make about all the nuances do not mean a heck of a lot. What is at stake is an obvious undermining of the rights of workers, supposedly guaranteed in the Labour Relations Act, to free collective bargaining. Why does he not see the road he is going down? Why does he not see the rights he is negating? Why are workers and their organizations less important than doctors or the right he is talking about on a broader scale? There is something wrong here. There is something dangerous in what they are doing. It is a path that is a threat to the democratic process that most of us in this province believe in so strongly.

I am sorry, I am not trying to be the least bit dramatic. I happen to believe it. What they are doing is going to cause us many more problems in the future. This is just the beginning. We told them they would run into this when they passed Bill 111 in that long and bitter debate. This is one of the first real examples of it, a direct result of that. What is going to be the result of this piece of legislation? What is the next move? They are

wrong, dead wrong, in what they are doing. I plead with this government and with the Liberals to understand that what they are doing is wrong. The right they are taking away from workers is too basic. For God's sake, let us stop now before we go any farther down this road.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the calibre of the debate has been excellent, and I commend those who have taken part in it. This is a very serious matter. I have listened attentively to each and every speaker and I do not cast any of it off or think of it in a frivolous way whatsoever.

I would like to take just a few moments to respond in a general way to some of the cautions or allegations, whichever members prefer, that were thrown out during the comments by members of the third party, in which they talked about the road down which the government was heading and the perils on that particular road.

I would like to say very briefly that we in Ontario have the largest work force of any province, over four million people. It is, in relative terms, highly organized; over 30 per cent of the nonagricultural work force belong to trade unions. We have in our basic legal framework a collective bargaining system that is adversarial in nature, with great potential for polarization and conflict. We have unions, many of which are large, powerful and committed to aggressive protection of the interests of their members.

Despite all this—and this is the point I want to make—we have a labour relations climate that over the last 10 years has been the envy of most other North American jurisdictions. Strikes do occur, but in less than five per cent of the bargaining situations. Moreover, in the vast majority of strikes, settlement is achieved without resort to illegal or improper activities by unions, employees or employers.

What accounts for this enviable record? What is it in the Ontario environment that has nurtured this tradition of commonsense co-operation? In my view there are several contributing factors. Fundamental to all else is the fact that the government accepts the legitimacy of the trade union movement and has thereby earned its respect, however grudging that respect may seem at times.

The government's acceptance of labour is manifested in a number of ways. First, there is the very special relationship that the Premier has with the leaders of the trade union movement. In my period as minister he has been accessible on all major labour issues and has listened sympathetically to their concerns. This is not to say that he always agrees with the propositions

advanced. However, he is responsive to well-reasoned arguments and responds affirmatively and fairly to real problems.

Second, the Premier's attitude towards labour has been reflected in the philosophy, instincts and stances taken by my predecessors as Minister of Labour over the last decade. This is evident in the legislative record, beginning with the wholesale reforms to the Labour Relations Act in 1975, through the mandatory checkoff legislation, the expedited arbitration amendment to the Labour Relations Act, the Occupational Health and Safety Act, the new Human Rights Code, the severance pay provisions of the Employment Standards Act and, most recently, in the revamped Workers' Compensation Act.

In all these statutes a real effort has been made to balance the interests of employees and employers, recognizing that the statutes within the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Labour are remedial in nature and principally designed to enhance the rights of workers in fair and affordable ways.

Interjections.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I have been sitting here all afternoon and all evening and I have not raised my voice at any time when the members opposite have spoken. I have listened very attentively to everything they have said.

9:10 p.m.

In summary, I think it is clear from the record of the last decade that the Premier, following his own instincts and temperament, has opted for a nonconfrontational approach to labour. My personal conviction is that the public has reaped enormous benefits in social and economic stability as well as in fairness and equity from this approach.

I know the senior union leaders in this province and others sense that the Premier and my predecessors as Ministers of Labour have followed the dictates of civility, openness and decency, on occasion laced with a good dose of pragmatism and even toughness when required. These attributes gear their own sense of values and that is one of the principal reasons that the relationship has been so close and productive.

9:31 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Ramsay's motion for second reading of Bill 125, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Brandt, Breithaupt, Conway, Cousens, Cureatz,

Davis, Dean, Drea, Edighoffer, Elgie, Elston, Gordon, Gregory, Haggerty, Harris, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kerrio, Kolyn;

Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, Mancini, McCaffrey, McEwen, McGuigan, McKessock, McLean, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Miller, G. I., Mitchell, Newman, Nixon, Norton, O'Neil, Peterson, Pollock, Ramsay, Reed, J. A., Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Ruprecht, Ruston;

Scrivener, Sheppard, Snow, Spensieri, Stephenson, B. M., Taylor, G.W., Timbrell, Treleaven, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Watson, Welch, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Worton, Wrye, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, Di Santo, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Lupusella, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Philip, Rae, Renwick, Swart.

Ayes, 73; nays 15.

House in committee of the whole.

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION, GRAY COACH LINES, LIMITED AND GO TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT ACT

Consideration of Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines, Limited and GO Transit and Locals 113 and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, it might be appropriate, and it will only take about 30 seconds, to explain these amendments. I am repeating what I said earlier today but this would be for the benefit of those who were not here. On advice that was received today, I want to move amendments that would clarify the intent of the bill.

As originally drafted, the bill referred to Gray Coach Lines Ltd. as an employer of certain members of Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. In fact, the agreement between the Toronto Transit Commission has an appendix that is entitled Gray Coach Employees Appendix.

Interjections.

Mr. Chairman: Order. May we have some order so we can hear the minister with his amendment, please?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: However, as article 111 of the agreement provides that, in essence, all employees working at Gray Coach are on loan from the Toronto Transit Commission, therefore all the employees are in fact employees of the commission. In order to be precise and to clarify the wording of the proposed legislation for the parties, an amendment is necessary.

With that explanation I would move that the preamble to the bill be amended by striking out "and Gray Coach Lines, Limited."

Mr. Chairman: Order. If we may, perhaps we should move the amendment to section 1 first, and we will come to the preamble when we have dealt with the other clauses, if that is agreeable. Clause 1(1)(a), I believe, has an amendment.

On section 1:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Ramsay moves that clause 1(1)(a) of the bill be struck out and the following substituted therefor: "(a) 'employer' means the Toronto Transit Commission"; and that the bill be further amended by striking out "employers" wherever it appears in the bill and inserting in lieu thereof "employer."

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Chairman: Is there another amendment?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: This is to clause 1(1)(b).

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Ramsay moves that clause 1(1)(b) of the bill be amended by striking out "and in the case of the collective agreement between Gray Coach Lines, Limited and Local 113, Amalgamated Transit Union, the 30th day of June 1984" in the 11th, 12th and 13th lines.

Motion agreed to.

Section 1, as amended, agreed to.

Sections 2 through 5, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 6:

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Renwick moves that section 6 of the bill be amended by adding thereto the following subsection:

"(2) Part I of the Public Sector Prices and Compensation Review Act, 1983, does not apply to the employees mentioned in subsection 2(1) or to their group compensation plans as defined in that act."

9:40 p.m.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, I do not intend to take any time to elucidate the meaning of the proposed amendment. The matter was spoken to earlier today both in question period by the leader of this party and by him and me during the course of the debate on second reading.

The purpose of the amendment is very simple, and that is to remove the intolerable provisions of

Bill 111, now chapter 70 of the Statutes of Ontario for 1983, from any application to the resolution of the problems that are going to be faced by the arbitrator in the negotiation of the kind of settlement that is essential if the goal of eliciting the co-operation on a voluntary basis for overtime of the members of Local 113 is to have any chance of success, and particularly the provisions to overrule the provisions of subsection 10(1) of Bill 111, which provide that, "Every act or regulation that requires or permits an issue that arises in collective bargaining by or on behalf of employees to whom this part applies to be submitted to or determined by arbitration shall be deemed to include a provision that the arbitrator shall consider the employer's ability to pay in the light of existing provincial fiscal policy."

That is the stumbling block and has been the stumbling block to successful negotiation in accordance with the collective bargaining process, the breakdown of that bargaining process and the reason we are here today. It is the stubbornness and intransigence of the government on that point that is holding up the sensible, intelligent negotiation about which we spoke during second reading of the bill.

I do not want to speak any further, but I want to give the government the opportunity to say it accepts the amendment, that it sees its wisdom, the rationale for it and the need to have the elimination from the process of Bill 125 of anything to do with Bill 111. I ask for the support of the House on that amendment. We intend to divide on that amendment if it is not accepted by the government.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, the government will not be supporting that amendment. As members know, the review legislation applies generally to the provincial public sector. In my view it would not be equitable or consistent with the purpose of the review program to exempt these three bargaining relationships.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, what the minister has said is nothing short of an outrage. He should know that. Surely he understands that one of the real problems, if there is a background to this discussion, is the fact that the *deus ex machina* of this whole piece has been the policy of the Premier (Mr. Davis), the cutback policy that has restricted the ability of employers to negotiate and is restricting the ability of arbitrators to come to an agreement.

The minister will know that in the matter of a dispute affecting several hospitals an arbitrator by the name of Barton stated as background to his

decision that in his view the legislation set out in Bill 111 would have to be a dominating factor in his determination of the result he was going to come up with.

I want the minister to know that I think that kind of reasoning is dangerous to a fair result and is going to prove very dangerous to a reasonable result when it comes to this act. I say in all sincerity to the minister and to the Premier, since he is here, that considering there is only a month left for Bill 111 to run, if they are really interested in goodwill and in saying to the public sector, "We recognize we are going to be moving into a new era," I do not understand why the minister in that way would just reject the proposal by the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick). I think it is a very sound proposal; if he were seriously interested in building up goodwill, it is one he would look to.

I can tell the minister that the independence of the arbitration process is on trial in this province. He put it on trial and he put arbitrators into an impossible position. He will find literally many respected arbitrators who have said to the government of this province, both privately and publicly, that they will not participate in a process they regard as something of a fraud because they do not feel they are going to be regarded as independent.

He had the comments made by Mr. Egan when we were discussing Bill 111, when he talked about the dangers to independence. He has had comments by several arbitrators. For him simply to ignore that and to pretend it is not true, to pretend it is not happening, to pretend it is not a factor and not a problem, is nothing short of intellectual dishonesty.

I think it is important for the government to recognize that section of Bill 111 stands as a barrier to fairness in public sector arbitration. They are the ones who are responsible for the mess we are in, and they are responsible for the fact that many people are not going to see that arbitrator as independent because the minister insisted in answer to the question today that he is going to force that arbitrator to comply with Bill 111.

We know what the employer's line has been all through the piece. It has been: "We have the government's fiscal policy. We are bound by that policy, we are stuck with it and we are not going to move beyond that." That has been the problem: their inflexibility. That is what has made it impossible to reach a negotiated settlement. If the government does not understand that, then it does not understand what has been

happening over the past month—and I think it does.

The government is making an enormous mistake in not indicating finally that it is prepared—as we approach the year in which all these controls are supposed to be off—to accept that. Supposedly those controls will be off, unless this is a harbinger of some other permanent change it is about to make. Perhaps they will not tell us about that. Perhaps it is something they will surprise us with; I do not know. But they are making an enormous mistake, and I think they should look at it again.

Mr. Chairman: Mr. Renwick has moved an amendment to section 6. Is it the pleasure of the committee that the amendment shall carry?

All those in favour will please say “aye.”

All those opposed will please say “nay.”

In my opinion the nays have it.

Vote stacked.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I saw all members on the government side shaking their heads as I made my statement about the independence of arbitrators. Since he is here, perhaps the Premier would be good enough to tell us who the arbitrator will be.

Hon. Mr. Davis: Mr. Chairman, I am not in a position to share with the honourable member the selection of the arbitrator, but I can assure him that when that decision is made he and the public will be informed. I can only say it has been the policy of this government to select very carefully and objectively those individuals we seek to do arbitrations of a sensitive nature.

Sections 7 to 12, inclusive, agreed to.

On section 13:

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I am sure the minister will want to get up. It is my understanding that he has some statement to make with respect to section 13.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: That is correct, Mr. Chairman. Part II of the bill deals with what will happen to the displaced Gray Coach drivers in the event that GO Transit proceeds with its proposed plan to terminate its services agreement with Gray Coach Lines Ltd. to operate GO bus routes.

Considerable mediation efforts went into a proposal to resolve what would happen to a considerable group of Gray Coach bus drivers, many of whom had long service records. The objective was to ensure that they would be accorded fair and equitable treatment and have their past loyalty and dedication to their work duly recognized.

To this end, a memorandum of settlement was entered into between the parties, Gray Coach, GO Transit, Local 113 and Local 1587. This settlement was expressed to be subject to ratification by all parties. A supplementary memorandum of settlement provided for an amendment and for final and binding arbitration in case the membership of locals 113 and 1587 failed to ratify the settlement.

9:50 p.m.

In the result, Local 113 has not ratified the settlement because it was dealt with as part of the overall settlement, and Local 1587, in a vote, rejected this settlement by approximately 37 votes to four. This afternoon, my deputy minister received a letter from Mr. Elton N. Lake, the president of Local 1587, advising him of the rejection of the settlement and that he expected both parties would proceed to arbitration on the issue.

Notwithstanding the rejection of the settlement, it is the view of the government that the settlement was and is a fair and equitable solution to the issue and affords protection to the interests of the Gray Coach drivers who may be displaced. It is a beneficial settlement and is necessary to protect their interests.

Apparently, the only part of the memorandum of settlement causing a problem is one clause relating to the seniority of the drivers. At present, approximately 17 drivers have already been taken by GO Transit as part of the takeover. Local 1587 appears to believe that these should be given super seniority over all other drivers from Gray Coach and that their seniority not be dovetailed with the others. It is our belief that dovetailing is the fair and equitable solution for all, including those drivers already transferred.

For the foregoing reasons, it is the government's recommendation that part II be adopted and passed without amendment.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, it is important for people to understand that the minister did not state this quite as explicitly as it is there. It is important to understand that there were two memoranda of agreement that have been signed, one on August 3 and one on August 17. It should be made clear that the government is overriding the exact terms of the memorandum of settlement that was reached on August 17. That should be made clear, because that is the implication of what the minister is saying.

As the minister knows, there were three items in that memorandum of settlement. He has only included one in the act. He should be made aware that this is what is being done. He should be

aware that this has implications for the labour relations of this province.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Chairman, it was my understanding that agreement was not going to be changed. That feeling was conveyed to us. The leader of the third party says the minister is changing the memorandum of agreement. I would like the minister to stand up and clarify it, because if we are going to vote on this matter, we want to know exactly what the situation is.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, we are not changing the memorandum.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, I think it is important that the minister at least should say clearly what the government is doing so everyone can understand.

There were three clauses in the memorandum, and the government has decided it is not going to include two clauses in the act. That should be made clear for purposes of the record. I do not have it here, but I have it in my office. I happen to think that, as a matter of intellectual honesty, people should at least say that is what is happening.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Chairman, surely it is a simple matter for the minister to tell the House the two additional items to the supplementary memorandum of August 17 which are not included in subsection 13(2) of the bill.

The minister will see the reference, "as amended by item 1 of the supplementary memorandum of settlement." As I understand it, there are also items 2 and 3. The implication has been that this was a complete statement of what was decided. I understand items 2 and 3 are not going to be included. I think the record of the House should show the exact wording of items 2 and 3 of the supplementary agreement so the record will be clear as to which two items are not accepted by the government.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Chairman, all I am saying—this is a matter of great complexity, and I know members on the other side have been involved with it for a long time, so I do not intend to get into all the details—is that the minister should make it very clear that rather than send the matter to arbitration, the government has decided to arbitrate this matter in this legislation. That is in effect what has happened, and that is clearly what the government has decided to do.

Hon. Mr. Davis: The union does not want it to go to arbitration.

Mr. Rae: I am not here representing any particular interest; I want to make that very clear to the Premier.

Hon. Mr. Davis: No. I understand.

Interjections.

Mr. Rae: I am being quite serious. I am just saying that for purposes of understanding what is happening here—and I am sure it is something people will want to try to understand and comprehend—the government has decided it is going to arbitrate with respect to the problems and difficulties of job security. It has made that decision, and that should just be made clear.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Chairman, to clarify matters for the record, I will be happy to read out the two sections that have been deleted:

"The Local 1587 representatives signatory to this document agree that they will unanimously recommend acceptance of the memorandum of settlement dated August 3, 1984, as amended by the supplementary memorandum, to their membership at a membership meeting to be held on or before Wednesday, August 22." That is clause 2.

Clause 3, which is to be deleted, says:

"Local 1587 and Local 113 agree that, should the membership of either local fail to ratify the memorandum of settlement as amended, any outstanding issues arising from the memorandum shall be submitted to arbitration for a final and binding determination within 60 days of the rejection."

Section 13 agreed to.

Sections 14 and 15 agreed to.

On the preamble:

Mr. Chairman: Hon. Mr. Ramsay moves that the preamble to the bill be amended by striking out "and Gray Coach Lines, Limited" in the first and second lines and that the title be amended accordingly.

Motion agreed to.

Preamble, as amended, agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Chairman, I have just a comment. The section in the preamble that really rankles no end is the section that deals with the public interest and welfare and public safety. It leaves the impression that the workers, if they were on strike, might somehow endanger the public. I find it offensive.

I do not know why the government has included that section, but certainly in my opinion it leaves the impression that workers would be responsible for something that might arise endangering the public.

I do not know how many accidents there were when the Montreal transit system was on strike. I do not know how many people got injured; I cannot recall. Certainly the press would be the

first to indicate if somebody had been hurt or to attribute some blame to the unions.

I find that offensive, and I am not trying to grandstand. As an individual, I find it offensive to suggest that workers would deliberately or in any way endanger the lives of the public, and I ask the government to withdraw that section because it really is offensive to working people. If you do not come from a working background you might accept it, but if you come from a working background it is really offensive language.

Mr. McCaffrey: Oh, come off it.

Mr. Martel: My friend can caterwaul all he wants.

Mr. J. A. Reed: Do you come from a working background?

Mr. Martel: Yes, I do. My friend can caterwaul all he wants, but to working people that is offensive because 99 per cent of the public out there are law-abiding people who do not break the laws of this province and do not try to endanger anyone's life. I ask the Premier to remove that section from the bill because it is offensive to working people.

Mr. Chairman: Shall we proceed? We have outstanding section 6.

10:03 p.m.

The committee divided on Mr. Renwick's amendment to section 6, which was negatived on the following vote:

Ayes 15; nays 76.

Section 6 agreed to.

Bill ordered for third reading.

On motion by Hon. Mr. Wells, the committee of the whole House reported one bill with certain amendments.

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION, GRAY COACH LINES, LIMITED AND GO TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ramsay moved third reading of Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission and GO Transit and Locals 113 and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I think it should be very clear to the government that it has chosen a route which I do not think it had to choose. I said earlier in this House and I want to say it again that

it is not, in our view, a question of strike or no strike; it is a question of how a government responds to what has been admittedly a very difficult, protracted and complex series of negotiations between the parties.

I am not going to say for a moment that this has been an easy matter. I suggested to the minister, and I suggest it to him again, and I suggested to the Premier (Mr. Davis) that when there is a rejection vote which is as close as the two votes were, that to my mind is not a clarion call on the part of the membership of Local 113 that they are determined, come hell or high water, to go out on strike. That is an indication by that membership that they are not happy with the results of the collective bargaining process and that they would like to see the package changed in some way.

I happen to think that that flexibility, as has been pointed out by my colleague the member for Hamilton East (Mr. Mackenzie), and my good friend the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), has been made impossible by Bill 111, by the government's overall policy of cutback and the establishment of arbitrary percentage figures that do not allow the kind of flexibility necessary to create collective agreements.

We all want the papal visit to succeed. We all want the Toronto Transit Commission to run. We all want these negotiations to come to a successful end. But I think the minister should understand that, even in a situation as complex and difficult as this one, it is a serious mistake for the government to do what it has done in the sense that it is only going to cause a deterioration ultimately in relationships between employers and employees in the public sector and in the private sector.

I talked about a new barbarism at work in the private sector and I think it is there. I think we have all seen it in the length of time that some strikes have had to go on; the kinds of lockouts that have taken place; the kind of attitude that many employers have to the existence of unions themselves, the practice which has been denounced so effectively by my colleague the member for Riverdale; the layoffs at Simpsons, and the fact that many workers are being fired after years of work and are being asked to come back part-time without benefits, without any kind of seniority, without any guarantees. That represents a very real step backwards in sector after sector.

In the public sector the government argues that "they have job security, so we can pretty well do what we want with respect to the collective bargaining process." In all sincerity I say to the

minister yes, this is a unique situation and a difficult situation, but I really do believe very strongly that this kind of legislation is the kind of legislation that one only brings in in the most extraordinary emergencies.

Three weeks prior to a visit which is the subject of so much concern by all of us in terms of making it a success, there is no reason to panic. There is no reason for the government to say, "This is what it is going to be, this is what we are going to do and this is how it is going to be solved."

I happen to think that bodes ill for the future of relations between employers and employees in the public sector. As I said to the minister, I think we are going to find we will have greater conflict within trade unions. There will be greater confrontation between some sections of the trade union movement and the government.

That may be what the minister wants; I do not know. I do not know what his agenda is. I do know that is not our agenda. It is not what we want to see. We do not want to see a repeat of British Columbia in Ontario. We do not want to see that kind of attitude on the part of government. We do not want to see that kind of attitude of confrontation on the part of a ruling party.

What we want to see is some flexibility and, if I may say this to the Premier, some real imagination. We all know that the reason imagination and creativity have not been allowed to work here has everything to do with the government's decisions on Bill 111.

That is what it is all about. That is what the story is. In all sincerity I say to the minister and to the Premier it is a mistake which I believe they are going to regret and it is going to prove to be very short-sighted.

There was a member in the federal House who used to talk about pain and gain. I think what we have seen here is simply short-term gain for long-term pain. The government is gaining what it regards as a window of peace and tranquility, but it is purchasing that window at a very high price, a price I do not think it was necessary to pay.

I and members of my party happen to believe it was possible to reach a negotiated settlement. It would not have been easy. No one could pretend it would have been easy. I can tell the minister and the Premier there would have been an awful lot of people pushing very hard to get a negotiated settlement. There would have been an awful lot of goodwill and determination to say, "Come on, let us get that agreement and get it going."

Instead, we had a government that in my view jumped the gun, ordered the second vote too early, made mistakes and made it difficult to reach an agreement. I do not think the parties were wide apart. I think the parties were very close together. That has been the fundamental disagreement and the fundamental problem. When government loses its impartiality, as it has done in these disputes, it is a rough time and it is a tough day.

I would simply like to repeat what I have said before. These are issues that are fundamentally political questions which ultimately are going to be decided in another arena—not in this hall and not this evening, tomorrow evening, Friday evening or any other time. They are going to be decided at the ballot boxes in Ontario when the time comes for people to decide whether they really think the authoritarian route is the only route to go. I happen to think that is the question people have to confront and deal with. We are ready for that battle any time the government chooses to call it.

10:17 p.m.

The House divided on Hon. Mr. Ramsay's motion for third reading of Bill 125, which was agreed to on the following vote:

Ayes

Andrewes, Ashe, Baetz, Barlow, Bennett, Brandt, Breithaupt, Conway, Cousens, Cureatz, Davis, Dean, Drea, Edighoffer, Elgie, Elston, Epp, Gordon, Gregory, Grossman, Haggerty, Harris, Havrot, Hennessy, Hodgson, Johnson, J. M., Kells, Kennedy, Kerr, Kerrio, Kolyn;

Lane, Leluk, MacQuarrie, Mancini, McCaffrey, McEwen, McGuigan, McKessock, McLean, McMurtry, McNeil, Miller, F. S., Miller, G. I., Mitchell, Newman, Nixon, O'Neil, Peterson, Pollock, Ramsay, Reed, J. A., Robinson, Rotenberg, Runciman, Ruprecht, Ruston;

Scrivener, Sheppard, Snow, Spensieri, Stephenson, B. M., Stevenson, K. R., Taylor, G. W., Timbrell, Treleaven, Van Horne, Villeneuve, Watson, Welch, Wells, Williams, Wiseman, Worton, Wrye, Yakabuski.

Nays

Allen, Bryden, Charlton, Cooke, Di Santo, Grande, Johnston, R. F., Lupusella, Mackenzie, Martel, McClellan, Philip, Rae, Renwick, Swart.

Ayes, 76; nays 15.

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, perhaps before His Honour appears to give royal assent I

could have the consent of the House to move a motion.

Mr. Speaker: Agreed?

Agreed to.

MOTION

SUMMER RECESS

Hon. Mr. Wells moved that when the House adjourns today it stands adjourned until October 9, 1984, as ordered on June 27, 1984, the terms and conditions provided by that order to apply.

Mr. Rae: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: Since the House will not be sitting in September, I am sure all members of the House will want to join me in recognizing the contribution of the member for Riverdale (Mr. Renwick), in that on September 10 of this year he will be celebrating his 20th anniversary as a member in this House.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, everybody sends best wishes and looks forward to seeing him on October 9.

Mr. Mancini: On a point of order, Mr. Speaker: I want to bring to the attention of the House that yesterday my colleague and good friend the member for Essex North (Mr. Ruston) celebrated his 65th birthday and he is going to use his first old age pension cheque to throw a party for all of us.

Mr. Speaker: Are you all familiar with the motion? Is it the pleasure of the House the motion carry?

Motion agreed to.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor of Ontario entered the chamber of the Legislative Assembly and took his place upon the throne.

ROYAL ASSENT

Hon. Mr. Aird: Pray be seated.

Mr. Speaker: May it please Your Honour, the Legislative Assembly of the province has, at its present sittings thereof, passed a certain bill to which, in the name of and on behalf of the said Legislative Assembly, I respectfully request Your Honour's assent.

Assistant Clerk: The following is the title of the bill to which Your Honour's assent is prayed:

Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission and GO Transit and Locals 113 and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

Clerk of the House: In Her Majesty's name, the Honourable the Lieutenant Governor doth assent to this bill.

The Honourable the Lieutenant Governor was pleased to retire from the chamber.

The House adjourned at 10:30 p.m.

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Wednesday, August 29, 1984

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Committee of the whole House

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- Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
- Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
- Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier (Brampton PC)
- Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman (Mississauga North PC)
- Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
- Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP)
- Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
- Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
- McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC)
- Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
- Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
- Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
- Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
- Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
- Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
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- Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)



Hansard

Official Report of Debates

Legislative Assembly of Ontario



Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Wednesday, August 29, 1984

Afternoon Sitting

Speaker: Honourable John M. Turner

Clerk: Roderick Lewis, QC

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An alphabetical list of members of the Legislature of Ontario, together with lists of members of the executive council, the parliamentary assistants and members of the standing committees, also appears at the back as an appendix.

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF ONTARIO

Wednesday, August 29, 1984

The House met at 2 p.m.

Prayers.

RESIGNATION OF MEMBERS

Mr. Speaker: I beg leave to inform the House that vacancies have occurred in the membership of the House by reason of the resignations of Don Boudria, Esq., as member for the electoral district of Prescott and Russell effective noon, Monday, August 6; Michael M. Cassidy, Esq., as member for the electoral district of Ottawa Centre effective midnight, Friday, August 3—

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. This is a very important piece of business, and I need your undivided attention.

To continue: Ms. Sheila Copps as member for the electoral district of Hamilton Centre effective 10 a.m., Monday, August 6; Eric Cunningham, Esq., as member for the electoral district of Wentworth North effective Thursday, August 2, and Albert J. Roy, Esq., as member for the electoral district of Ottawa East effective Friday, August 3, and that warrants for by-elections have been issued.

RECALL OF HOUSE

Mr. Speaker: If we can just have closer attention, I would like to express a word of thanks on behalf of all those people who have worked so diligently and effectively to make the necessary arrangements for the meeting of the House today. We are particularly grateful to the staff of the House, the caucuses, the Ministry of Government Services and other ministries who made the necessary arrangements for today's activities. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY THE MINISTRY

TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT BILL

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, later this afternoon I shall be introducing for first reading a bill respecting the labour disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines Ltd., and the three unions representing their employees. As the members will know, the bill is intended to ensure continuity of operations by

prohibiting work stoppages during this round of bargaining and requiring the parties to refer unresolved issues to binding arbitration.

In my two-and-a-half-year term as Minister of Labour, today is the first occasion when it has been necessary to resort to special legislation to end or avoid a work stoppage. While I regret the need for this measure—and I say that sincerely—I am convinced the bill is absolutely necessary given the impasse in bargaining and the consequent possibility of disruption in Toronto's transit services.

The principal parties, with the assistance of senior ministry officials, have made determined, conscientious and good-faith efforts to resolve their differences, but without success. In the negotiations between the TTC and Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, there are no signs that future mediation would be productive. It is essential to consider the proposed legislation in its proper collective bargaining context. For this reason, I would like to take a few moments to review the developments in the bargaining to date.

Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union is only one of three trade unions representing distinct portions of the transportation work force. However, the negotiations between the commission and Local 113 tend to receive the greatest public attention.

Local 113 represents the largest bargaining unit of some 7,600 drivers, ticket collectors and maintenance personnel. Local 2 of the Canadian Union of Public Employees represents approximately 200 maintenance electricians who service the transit system. Finally, Lodge 235 of the International Association of Machinists holds the bargaining rights for about 40 machinists engaged in the maintenance and repair of transit equipment. Negotiations between the employers and each of these trade unions are conducted separately, but the latter two bargaining units have a tradition of following the settlement pattern established in negotiations between the TTC and Local 113.

The most recent collective agreement between the commission and Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union expired on June 30 of this year; however, bargaining began well in advance

of the formal termination date of the contract. In fact, senior ministry officials convened exploratory meetings beginning in January with the commission and Local 113 to ascertain the contentious issues expected in the 1984 bargaining and to determine what assistance the ministry might provide. One central issue which emerged at the outset was the effect on Local 113's members of GO Transit's announced takeover of commuter bus routes.

Following exploratory meetings earlier in the year, the parties met in direct bargaining on several occasions between mid-April and mid-June. Conciliation began in earnest in early July with nine meetings scheduled in the first three weeks of that month. Conciliation resumed throughout the week of July 23, focusing on the implications of GO Transit's decision to hire its own drivers to service commuter routes, rather than to continue its contractual relationship with Gray Coach Lines Ltd.

Under the guidance of the Deputy Minister of Labour, GO Transit and Local 1587 of the Amalgamated Transit Union, which represents the employees of GO Transit, were invited to join the TTC and Local 113 to endeavour to conclude a mutually satisfactory arrangement to govern the GO Transit takeover. Following five days of intensive discussion, an understanding was reached on this difficult issue. The members will see reference to this understanding in part II of the bill and the relevant memoranda are attached.

Conciliation concluded with the release of a "no board" report on July 27 which established a legal strike date of August 13. The deputy minister and the director of the conciliation and mediation service convened a mediation meeting on Monday, July 30, to deal with the remaining issues in dispute. All parties agreed to strive for a settlement by Friday, August 3, some days prior to the strike deadline. A difficult issue related to past practices was ultimately resolved, as were the demands with respect to wages and pensions. A memorandum of settlement was signed and submitted to a membership vote on August 15, but was rejected by a 52 per cent majority.

2:10 p.m.

As the members know, I immediately requested my senior officials to meet with the TTC and Local 113 to determine whether or not there was any merit to further mediation. On the basis of their reports, I concluded that mediation was effectively at an end. However, because less than 37 per cent of the total membership in the bargaining unit had actually voted against the proposed settlement, I requested that the union

conduct a second vote. This vote was held last Wednesday, August 22, and the terms of settlement were again narrowly rejected.

Negotiations between the commission and the other two trade unions are at different stages. As I have noted, however, it has been usual for the agreement between the TTC and Local 113 to be concluded first and to serve as a guide or model for subsequent bargaining between the commission and the other two unions.

Certainly, CUPE and the machinists are free to pursue an independent course in bargaining and are entitled to the ministry's conciliation and mediation services in their own right. However, the reality of past bargaining practice leads one to the conclusion that progress in these negotiations will not occur if the commission and Local 113 remain in a deadlock.

The conciliation between the commission and Local 2 of CUPE concluded last Friday, August 24, after approximately seven conciliation meetings. I understand that little progress was made, which may well be attributable to the state of the bargaining between the employer and Local 113. A "no board" report was issued on August 28 which sets a legal strike date of September 14. The ministry has indicated that it is prepared to convene mediation if both parties are receptive.

The International Association of Machinists, Lodge 235, has completed conciliation and has been in a legal position to strike since August 13. It appears both parties acknowledge that meaningful negotiations must await a settlement between the TTC and Local 113.

The three bargaining units are related both in their negotiations and also in their contributions to the delivery of transit services in Metro Toronto. Having regard to events to date, it is obvious, as I have indicated, that there are no prospects for a voluntary settlement with or without mediation. No valid collective bargaining purpose could be served by further delay, nor do I think it is practical or sensible to deal with only one of the three bargaining relationships in a bill of this nature. Transit service cannot be assured if the work of any of the three bargaining units is interrupted.

My anxiety about the impact of the work stoppage is heightened, of course, by the approaching papal visit. Hundreds of thousands of people intend to converge on Downsview on September 15. Without public transit service, many will be disappointed, frustrated and, indeed, prevented from participating in a historical occasion of deep spiritual significance. It is also clear that when hundreds of thousands of

people gather together, adequate measures must be provided to ensure their safety and security. This would be almost impossible to effect without reliable mass transportation services.

Looking beyond the Pope's visit, few would dispute the importance of the transit service to the routine of daily living in this vast and complex urban centre. The TTC serves, and serves well, a metropolitan community of over two million people, many of whom depend on this service as their primary means of transportation. Different levels of government have encouraged reliance on public transit as an alternative to automobile access to downtown Toronto. An efficient public transportation system has been thought to be the key to a habitable environment. The most persuasive argument for public transportation has been the excellent service provided by the commission and its employees to the people of Toronto. It is certainly the best transit system in North America.

It is hardly necessary to recite the personal hardship that a transit strike causes to individuals who have become reliant on the TTC. Employees experience difficulty in attending work; students must make other arrangements to commute to class; the elderly simply stay at home, often isolated from friends, neighbours and medical services.

During a transit dispute, the roadways and streets of Toronto become overburdened with vehicles and at times impassable. This would not only compromise normal traffic but would seriously impede the movement of emergency vehicles of all kinds. Furthermore, it is not difficult to envisage the tragedy that might result in the midst of a transit strike from a serious fire or other catastrophe in the core of the city during business hours.

The potential economic losses associated with a transit strike are also staggering. Toronto is at the centre of business and financial activity in this country. When mobility is restricted, economic activity also becomes paralyzed. Some people are unable to work and it becomes difficult to transport goods in and out of the city. A serious shock to the economy of this community during the tentative stages of recovery would be particularly troublesome.

I can assure the honourable members that my colleagues and I decided to proceed with this bill only after the most thorough and anxious consideration of all reasonable alternatives. The government recognizes the value and importance of free collective bargaining to employers, trade unions and employees. Only in extraordinary

circumstances, where public health, safety or economic wellbeing is in jeopardy, has the government restricted collective bargaining rights. I believe all these considerations apply in this case.

The bill prohibits work stoppages during the current round of bargaining. I would emphasize, however, that although it may temporarily prevent employees from exercising their right to strike, it does provide an objective and fair method of dispute resolution as an alternative. The bill does not impose a settlement, nor does it continue existing collective agreements. Rather, it creates an effective mechanism for addressing the concerns and objectives of both management and labour. All parties will be given a full opportunity to make submissions in support of their respective positions. The arbitration process will be expeditious. In the interim, a five per cent increase in wage rates will be implemented.

Part II of the bill imports into the agreement between Local 1587 of the Amalgamated Transit Union and GO Transit the terms of the understanding reached in mediation to protect employees affected by GO Transit's takeover of bus routes now operated by Gray Coach. The memorandum, concluded to protect the existing drivers, was signed by representatives of all affected parties. It symbolizes the importance the parties attached to the humane and orderly transition of work from Gray Coach to GO Transit. For reasons of fairness and equity, I believe it is essential to preserve that understanding in order to ensure the employees are not jeopardized in the reorganization of GO bus services.

The government's position is that the bill to be introduced is the proper and responsible course of action in view of the grave threat which a transit strike presents to public health, safety and economic wellbeing as well as the convenience of the community. The bill does qualify the rights of the parties, but does not impose a settlement. Rather, the arbitration process is substituted, allowing the parties a full opportunity to participate in the process by which the terms and conditions of their relationship will be decided.

This is not by any means a one-dimensional problem involving only collective bargaining philosophy or practices. Without wishing to overdramatize the situation, there is here a convergence of interests not easily reconciled, and the difficult task of government over the last days and weeks has been to identify where the vital public interest resides.

Inevitably, in a pluralistic society, this judgement will have elements of subjectivity in it and, indeed, some will allege bias. To the best of our collective wisdom we have attempted to eradicate those elements and make a good-faith effort to determine where our fundamental responsibility lies, faced with conflicting claims within the community. We have opted for what we believe to be the wider public interest—the public interest in the stability and continuity of the transit infrastructure upon which the movement of more than two million people in the heartland of the province depends.

2:20 p.m.

POLICE DEATHS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I know you and the members of the House will permit me a brief statement. The tragic deaths of police officers Douglas Tribbling and Dwayne Piukkala have once again shocked all of us into the realization of the vulnerability of those who are responsible for maintaining law and order in our society.

In mourning the passing of these two fine men, much admired by their colleagues and their community, I would like to take this opportunity, speaking for my caucus colleagues and for the Ontario Liberal Party, to pay tribute to all the dedicated and courageous men and women who daily risk their lives on our behalf.

Our heartfelt sympathy goes out to the bereaved families and the loved ones of Dwayne Piukkala and Douglas Tribbling. May they find some comfort in the fact that their sadness is genuinely shared by the people of Ontario.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I want to join in the remarks that have been made by the leader of the Liberal Party. I understand the Premier (Mr. Davis) is attending funeral services today on behalf of the officer who was shot in Peel county. I simply want to add on behalf of my own party our deep sense of grief at these tragic killings that have taken place in the last short while, which call to attention once again the fact that police work is often very dangerous, that it is very risky and that the police are performing a vital service on behalf of the public and are running great risks in doing so.

I personally hope—and I say this to the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry) and the Solicitor General (Mr. G. W. Taylor) in a nonpartisan sense—that these events will call on the law officers of the crown, those responsible for the administration of the police, to look again at whether there is any way to reduce the risk, either by insisting that people work in twos or by

whatever may be necessary, to look at whether this might be effective or whether other methods are possible to reduce the risk that is run by people who are performing work on behalf of the public in this way.

To the Piukkala and Tribbling families we of course send our heartfelt condolences and our feelings that this is a very sad day when we are commemorating in such a short space of time the loss of two fine young people who have given so much to their community.

Hon. Mr. McMurtry: Mr. Speaker, in the absence of the Premier and the Solicitor General, who are at Officer Piukkala's funeral, I would like to express again the heartfelt sympathy of the members of this side of the House in relation to these two tragic deaths.

Certainly one of the great privileges of serving as Attorney General and as Solicitor General is to come to know in a very intimate way the enormous responsibility that law enforcement officers of this province discharge on a day-to-day basis and the enormous risks they undertake on behalf of all the people of the province. These risks, of course, occasionally and very tragically end in tragic deaths such as occurred to these two officers.

Officer Douglas Tribbling was a personal friend of mine. I had had many cases with him when I was at the bar. I knew at first hand what a dedicated officer he was. I did not know Officer Piukkala, but obviously both of these men have made a great contribution to the public life of this province. I join with all members of the House in expressing our tribute to their dedicated service and again our heartfelt sympathy to their families.

ORAL QUESTIONS

EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, the House is back and there is much unfinished business on the agenda of this House from our last session. My first question is to the Treasurer with respect to unemployment and his so-called programs emanating from his last budget some three and a half months ago.

The Treasurer will recall that a much-vaunted 10-point program was introduced at that time to combat youth unemployment. The number today stands at 169,000 unemployed youth in our province. To date, out of the 10 points, two and one third of his programs have been announced. He has spent more than \$500,000 advertising his programs, but confusion reigns everywhere and there is no delivery.

My question to the Treasurer is this: Why the big delay? Why has he taken so long to respond, and is he going to respond?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member would reflect on the programs, he would realize that they have been implemented almost exactly on schedule. As he knows, the one with the municipalities was announced last week. Our other parts of youth works have been announced. The youth employment counselling centres now have more than \$10 million—

Mr. Peterson: In Brampton. One in Brampton was announced.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: The member did not let me finish. He should not get nervous.

The youth employment counselling centres now have more than \$10 million that they are funneling to the employment disadvantaged, the target group we selected. The programs that have yet to be put into full operation will be put into full operation in the next few weeks. We did not want the venture capital program, for example, to overlap with the summer venture capital program. It will be starting when our regular summer venture capital program finishes.

In regard to the youth start program, the Minister of Colleges and Universities (Miss Stephenson) has a proposal which will be ratified by the Board of Industrial Leadership and Development in the next couple of days. That will be off and running this fall.

If the member would go through the programs—we would be happy to go through each one of them with him—he would find this is true in all cases. Those which otherwise would duplicate the programs we always have going on during the summer are going to begin this fall when the summer programs expire.

Those which for the most part are new summer activities and ones we could get on stream right away were put on stream right away. I know the member would have wanted us to meet with the municipalities prior to putting in the youth corps program, which depends upon co-operation with the municipalities. That was done and now that program has been announced.

All in all, these programs not only are coming into place as predicted and with appropriate background but—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you.

Mr. Peterson: Unemployment among our youth is up to 169,000, according to the last figure. The Treasurer will recall his own promises in this House. Regarding the Ontario

youth tourism program, for example, he said, “It will be going in a matter of weeks this summer for sure.” It is still not going at this point, and the summer is over.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: I am reminding him of his promises, Mr. Speaker. He will recall he promised 67 new youth counselling centres, and to date there has been an announcement of one—in Brampton. This is three and a half months after his budget. He has created one job; that of Ken Dryden. He has given him no power. He has not reorganized the ministry. He has created a new layer of bureaucracy. Confusion reigns as to who is responsible for implementing the various programs.

Why has the Treasurer not moved quickly and expeditiously on this problem when it is staring him in the face daily and there are no tangible results whatsoever?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: I understand, as we saw a couple of weeks ago, the member’s difficulty in reading Statistics Canada figures. But I remind him that the last time this House met, the unemployment rate was three per cent higher than it is today. The only change that has occurred in the last little while is that the youth unemployment rate has gone down by three per cent. That is an important decrease, but just a little less than the decrease he has seen on his side of the House. Those are the two changes.

Mr. McClellan: That is not what Mulroney says. Mulroney is very worried about that.

Mr. Peterson: The numbers have gone up.

Mr. Speaker: Order. The member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren).

Mr. Laughren: I am trying, Mr. Speaker.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Did the member want to ask a supplementary?

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, in view of the Treasurer’s expressed concern about unemployment in the province, I wonder whether he could tell us why it is that this government has refused to participate in funding for a national training centre in Sudbury.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, I know the honourable member will have joined in congratulating us for the community economic transformation agreement arrangements we have made in Sudbury. Our colleague the member for Sudbury (Mr. Gordon) not only worked hard to bring that about but also thinks it is an important initiative for Sudbury.

Also, at the urging of the member for Sudbury, we are continuing discussions with that city to see what further assistance might flow under the community economic transformation agreements. The member for Sudbury has put before us the opportunity which the member has talked about, plus a couple of other very exciting ones, all of which we are reviewing now.

2:30 p.m.

Mr. Speaker: Final supplementary; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, let me remind the Treasurer of the statistics in this province. He no doubt will be aware that the Ontario Manpower Commission has reported that there were 203,000 unemployed women in this province as of July 1984. That is more than in June 1984; it is also more than a year ago in July. Presumably, we are in the midst of the recovery. However, it is not getting better but worse, and the unemployment rate among women aged 15 to 19 in July went up to 16 per cent.

My question is this: Specifically, what programs do the Treasurer or his colleagues have to address the specific question of unemployed women in this province?

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, was that the second question by the Leader of the Opposition? It seems to be about unemployed women as opposed to our youth employment program and issues. I should like to know whether this is supplementary or a new question.

Mr. Speaker: New question; the Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: Is he saying women are not people? What is he saying? He should stand up and answer the question.

Mr. Speaker: New question, please.

Mr. Peterson: Is he trying to welsh out of this? Let him stand up and answer the question. It is quite clearly supplementary. What is the matter with the minister?

Mr. Speaker: Order. New question, please. I have already called it. The Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: Are you ruling on the relevancy of the question?

Mr. Speaker: No, I am not.

Mr. Peterson: Tell him to answer it. What is the matter with him?

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: If he chooses not to answer, that is his prerogative, I guess. Perhaps he is too

embarrassed to do so. Clearly that was relevant and apropos of the first question.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Tell Mr. Speaker, not me.

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: Okay, Mr. Speaker, you tell him. Have you ruled on the relevancy?

Interjections.

Mr. Peterson: I just asked the minister about it. If he knows anything about it, let him answer it.

Mr. Speaker: New question; Leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Peterson: I just want to be clear. Are you bailing him out, or is he abdicating his responsibility? Who has made the decision, you or him? Answer that for me.

Mr. Speaker: Obviously, I do not have to answer questions in the House, but out of courtesy I will. The Treasurer had the opportunity to answer the question. He chose not to, and I called the new question and now I ask you to place your new question.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Grossman: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I wish to clarify the circumstances. I am delighted and prepared to answer the question. I did not decline to answer the question. I merely asked you, Mr. Speaker, in your capacity as Speaker to define whether that was a supplementary question, given that it related to women—it did not seem to me to relate to youth employment—or whether it was a new question. It matters not to me, but in terms of the question itself, we ought to know whether it is a new question or a supplementary.

Interjections.

Mr. Speaker: Order. In the interests of the privileges of all members of the House, I ask the Leader of the Opposition to place a new question.

Mr. Peterson: That about says it all. Unemployment matters not to him. Clearly, it was relevant.

HOSPITAL BEDS

Mr. Peterson: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Health. He will recall that on many occasions in this House there have been discussions about the numbers of hospital beds, of active treatment beds and emergency beds. He will be aware of the discussions about the misallocation of those beds and the mounting evidence from across this province that a crisis

has been developing. He will be aware of the comments of practitioners, experts in the field. I remind him of Dr. Druck, the cardiologist at Toronto Western Hospital. He will be aware of situations in his own community of Kingston, where there are reports of people dying because of the lack of hospital beds. He is aware of the recommendation of a coroner's jury with respect to the death of Judith Abshez—the recommendation dealing with the question of adequacy of hospital beds, saying very clearly that there is a problem and that it was probably one of the factors leading to her death.

Is the minister now prepared to change his position, and not to be so defensive and not to accuse people who disagree with him of being radical, strange or irresponsible? Will he clearly face up to the question of the misallocation of hospital beds in this province and start to build chronic care facilities and home care programs that will relieve pressure in that regard?

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member has done his research thoroughly, and I am sure he has, he will be aware, for example, that the Hospital Council of Metropolitan Toronto recently issued a report supporting what I have said in this House before, that at any given time there are at least 1,000 empty hospital beds in Metropolitan Toronto. I do not think the coroner's jury could have taken that into account in addressing the recommendations it made.

I think it is true, and I have previously indicated it in the House as well, that there is a problem with respect to the appropriate allocation of beds and the identification of where the vacant beds are at any given time. That is clearly something I intend to address, and I expect to be making an announcement with respect to that in the near future.

I think the example that is educative in this respect is in Hamilton, where a couple of years ago there was concern that there was a shortage of hospital beds. With a computerized central bed registry, which is now accessible to all the hospitals, emergency health services and physicians, the utilization of the available beds is much more efficient. I believe that model can be applied effectively across the province.

In most cases I think the answer is not simply to add new beds, but to improve the efficiency of the system through the application of appropriate modern technology as has been demonstrated in Hamilton. I think that is the more responsible route to go.

Mr. Peterson: Let me ask the minister how he would respond to the words of Dr. Charles Tator, the head of neurosurgery at Sunnybrook Medical Centre. During the coroner's inquest, he said: "This should not happen in this day and age. There should be improved access to hospital bed availability." He went on to say, "The prime factor in solving the bed shortage is the removal of patients from active treatment beds."

In conversation today, he told us of an example of a person who lay for 36 hours in emergency at Sunnybrook waiting for a hospital bed. Even during the operation there was no knowledge whether there would be a bed for that person.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Peterson: He said, "The system has broken down." When is the minister going to take responsibility for bringing in home care programs, for providing chronic care beds and for expanding the system to take pressure off the active care beds? Clearly, that is one of the solutions. When is the minister going to take that responsibility?

Hon. Mr. Norton: We have many additional new beds under way throughout the province, particularly in the Metropolitan Toronto area. I think it is important to bear that in mind as well as what I said earlier: It is clear there must be changes within the health care system with respect to the way in which resources have been utilized traditionally.

I would suggest to Dr. Tator—I am not quarrelling with him—and other physicians that part of the responsibility is theirs. I say that in this respect: There are some traditions in the health care system with respect to the allocation of beds to particular physicians and services which in my opinion are outmoded.

2:40 p.m.

We have to take a very serious look at the utilization of beds. In some hospitals, we have to look at the maintenance of vacant beds for particular services while service may be denied to citizens for other services on the grounds that there are not sufficient beds.

We have seen a fine example of the way in which a hospital can address that. Sister Margaret, the administrator at St. Joseph's Health Centre here in Toronto, has established a system whereby the senior physicians in the hospital actually engage in the daily allocation of beds and shifting them back and forth among services. That hospital does not, I think the member will find, make the accusation that it has

people waiting in the corridors for access to beds because it has found a way among the physicians on staff to deal with that.

I hope this kind of example of co-operative action on the part of physicians as well as others involved in health care in the province will serve as a co-operative model for others to emulate.

Mr. Cooke: Mr. Speaker, the minister is quite correct when he says a lot of changes are needed in the health care system, and we are waiting for those changes. Does he not realize that in most areas of this province it takes seven to eight months to get a chronic care bed? One of the reasons for the whole backup in the health care system is that a program he has promised several times, home care for the frail elderly, and other community support programs are not in place.

Why does the minister not announce that program and get it operating instead of waiting for an election so it can be announced as an election goody? We know that is what he is doing with this program, with the assistive devices program and with something on extra billing. All the goodies in the health care system are being saved up so he can use them as election goodies.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, this is the first time that honourable member has ever given me any credit for planning anything. I must say I am really delighted he has finally recognized that I do have the capacity to plan rather effectively.

That nagging suspicion he has, though, is really not well founded. The planning is well advanced for that program, and I do hope to be announcing it before long.

Mr. Rae: In the fall. We know when it is coming.

Mr. Martel: Right after the Queen leaves.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Norton: I might even announce it when the Queen is here. I know of no plans for a provincial election; that is not something that is within my area of jurisdiction.

Mr. Sweeney: Mr. Speaker, the minister will be well aware that in past discussions of this nature members of my party have agreed that the problem is not the shortage of active beds but the fact that people with chronic needs and nursing home needs are occupying those beds. That is the problem.

On the very day that doctors were trying to admit Judith Abshez into Sunnybrook Medical Centre, 22 out of the 38 neurological ward beds were occupied by chronic care patients; that is two thirds. At the same time we are told through the Metropolitan Toronto District Health Council

that in the Metropolitan area there is a waiting time of at least 100 days to get a chronic care bed.

Mr. Speaker: Question, please.

Mr. Sweeney: What is the minister going to do—not just in Metro Toronto but particularly in this case in Metro Toronto—to ease the shortage of chronic care beds and therefore release the active care beds for the kind of treatment that is needed in a case like this? This woman could be alive today.

Hon. Mr. Norton: Mr. Speaker, I do not wish to debate the latter remark, but I do think the member ought to consult seriously and get a medical opinion on it because I am not sure it would confirm what he just said.

I would point out that, although the evidence that came forward at the time of the inquest would support what he has said, it has also been pointed out that when the physicians did decide the woman required treatment, they did not have any problem getting her into Wellesley Hospital. The question of admission is not a political question, it is a medical question, and the physicians, in cases where they deem it to be urgent, can get people in.

In response to the general thrust of his question concerning what we are doing in Metropolitan Toronto, let me just give a little example of what we are doing in this area since that is the target area he has cited.

At Queensway General Hospital we are in the process of completing a 120-bed chronic care facility, which will be coming on stream this fall. Baycrest Hospital is now in the process of building a 300-bed chronic care facility. Scarborough Grace Hospital is now being built. It will not be completed till 1985, but it is under construction and will have 205 acute care beds and 65 chronic care beds.

Northwestern General Hospital is currently in the process of opening a 120-bed nursing home in its new senior citizens' complex. North York General Hospital is in the final stages of planning for a 50-bed nursing home, which is scheduled to be operational within the next year and a half. The new Credit Valley Hospital in Mississauga is scheduled to open in 1985 and will alleviate some further pressure on Metropolitan Toronto hospital beds.

At the moment I am awaiting determination of the additional allocations I have requested, and in the relatively near future I expect I will be in a position to announce both further extended care beds and chronic care beds. Again, I would reiterate that has nothing to do with any other

plans the members opposite might be suspicious about.

TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT BILL

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I want to ask a question of the Minister of Labour, in the absence of the Premier (Mr. Davis), concerning the anti-bargaining legislation his government has brought in today. I want to make it very clear, before anything else is said, that no party wants to see the papal visit succeed more than our own and that we happen to believe very strongly that the best way to guarantee the success of that visit is to assure a collective bargaining agreement between the parties in this dispute. That is the best way to guarantee goodwill, that is the best way to guarantee good faith and that is the best way to guarantee a successful visit as far as transportation is concerned.

In the light of the minister's statement—and he even admits on his own that his judgement will have elements of subjectivity in it and, indeed, some will allege bias—I want the minister to know, from our perception and from the perception of a great many people, the government has simply been acting in this dispute as an agent, as a running person, for the Toronto Transit Commission management.

I would like to ask the minister, with respect to his remarks on page 9, why, when the settlement which was accepted by the union executive and recommended to the membership was rejected the second time by the membership by a very narrow margin, he did not see that as a clear indication that a resolution of the dispute was this close—the parties were that close together.

I would ask why the Premier, instead of simply jumping to Mr. Porter's tune—and Mr. Porter came out of the room and said, "I am just going to go to the government and ask for legislation"—did not turn around and say to Mr. Porter, "Sir, we want you to go into a hotel room with the executive of the Amalgamated Transit Union and the other parties involved and bargain around the clock until an agreement is reached in order to ensure transportation for the people of Ontario."

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, the honourable member, the leader of the third party, is making assumptions which are absolutely incorrect. The Premier was not marching to any tune by the chairman of the Toronto Transit Commission or jumping or whatever the case may be.

I just simply have to repeat what I said in my statement; that is, I do not agree that the parties were that close together. The parties had reached

an impasse. Our senior conciliators, our deputy minister, the most experienced people in this country, the most qualified people in this country who mediate labour disputes, did work virtually night and day to try to reach a resolution and they found it impossible to do so. When people of that calibre tell me there is an impasse, I am inclined to accept it.

Mr. Rae: We are talking about the actions of the TTC, without dealing with the realities of overall provincial policy—the attitude that the province has taken with respect to collective bargaining in the public service. The government has gutted the notion of collective bargaining in the public sector and in the near public sector over the last two years. One cannot talk about it without talking about those things.

2:50 p.m.

I would like to ask the minister did the Premier agree at any time that he would waive Bill 111, which is due to expire in October, in an effort to encourage the parties to reach an agreement right away? Did he ask the TTC to sit down and reach an agreement?

Does the minister not realize that a negotiated settlement is going to produce a much better result than the kind of legislated ham-fisted, ham-handed approach the minister has taken and which has already been rejected by a number of distinguished arbitrators in the field who are very disturbed by the fact that the government is no longer seen as an independent party in these disputes, but is seen as a party to the dispute in question because of its policies and because of the shackles it has placed on its mediators and on arbitrators?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I should make the point that an average of 3,000 collective agreements are negotiated annually in this province and that since 1970 only three have been ended by special legislation.

Mr. Mancini: Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the leader of the New Democratic Party does not want the papal visit disrupted. We will see how he votes this afternoon or tomorrow. I have to concur with what was said by Cliff Pilkey when he stated, "What is happening now is a public relations disaster for the labour movement." I have to concur with his statement.

I want to ask the minister a question which relates to the first question of the leader of the third party, specifically the minister's answer that the two parties were far apart and they had reached an impasse. If that was the case, why did the Premier call Julian Porter and Charlie

Johnson to his office to try to mediate the dispute if they were actually at an impasse and nothing could be done? Why did the Premier call these gentlemen to his office to try to mediate? Was this grandstanding on behalf of the Premier or was he actually trying to mediate the dispute?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, let me go back for just a moment. I want to emphasize once again, and I do not like to repeat myself, that every effort was made to find a resolution to this dispute. For example, we tried something that was unprecedented in having a second vote because the decision was so close. We were trying everything possible to avoid the action we are taking today. The Premier's action in inviting those people in was just one more example of going to every length in trying to do whatever was possible to avoid bringing this House back to pass legislation of this nature.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the minister should know it is very clear, since the government has announced its policies over the last two and a half to three years with respect to the public sector and bargaining in the public sector, that the overwhelming feeling of employees in the public sector, and a great many other people, is that the government is not some kind of an arbitrator or mediator, the government is a party to these disputes and it is making it virtually impossible in many instances for disputes to be reconciled. This instance is not going to be an exception. What the government has done is making life far more difficult in terms of collective bargaining, not making it any easier.

In particular, I would like to ask the minister this question. He says the bill does qualify the rights of the parties, but it does not impose a settlement. Those are his words. He then talks about how the arbitration process will be expeditious. Can the minister confirm with respect to section 10 of Bill 111—a view which has been rejected by several senior arbitrators in the province who are now refusing to do arbitrations because of the actions of this government—that all of this legislation he has introduced is now subject to Bill 111 and that arbitrators are required to take into account the government's fiscal policy and the employer's ability to pay in light of that fiscal policy?

Does the minister not realize that what that really means is the government can manipulate the terms of the settlement, and does he not realize that jeopardizes the whole notion of impartiality in labour disputes for the future?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: With respect, the leader of the third party has made a speech, he has not asked a question.

Mr. Rae: I ask the minister again, why is there absolutely no mention of restrictions and shackles that have been placed on this arbitrator in this particular instance in terms of Bill 111? Why is there no mention of Bill 111 in the minister's statement? Does he not think that is misleading?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Perhaps I could refer to section 6 of the bill. This section strengthens the arbitrator's powers to determine his own procedures and confirms that the arbitrator's decision is final, binding and not subject to any review created in the statute. Perhaps that will answer the member's question.

Mr. Rae: Let me refer the minister to section 10 of Bill 111. I am sure he would not want to mislead the House in this matter.

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: A new question, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: Right. All right a new question.

Hon. Miss Stephenson: This is the second part of the second question.

Mr. Rae: In fact, it is the second part. Am I not right? It is all part of a package, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It is your first supplementary of the second question.

Mr. Rae: Right, you got it. I am reading to the minister: "Every act or regulation that requires or permits an issue that arises in collective bargaining by or on behalf of employees to whom this part applies to be submitted to or determined by arbitration shall be deemed to include a provision," etc.

He cannot deny that section 10 of the Public Sector Prices and Compensation Review Act has been a red flag in terms of its whole effect on the labour movement and its effect on the arbitration profession in this province. He cannot deny that is right in the law of this province now and that it is part of the law under which this Legislature is being asked to pass this bill this afternoon and later on today.

Does the minister not realize it is there? Why does he not make it clear that it is there because that is the clear indication that the government is not an independent third party in this dispute. He is part and parcel of the employer's point of view and simply acting as a running boy for the employer when it comes to settling disputes in the public sector.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: I totally disagree with the allegations being made by the leader of the third party.

Mr. Rae: I ask for a simple yes or no answer, or however the minister chooses to answer, as

long as he answers the question. Is the minister saying that section 10 of the Public Sector Prices and Compensation Review Act does or does not apply to this legislation?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Yes, section 10 does apply to the legislation.

UNITED CO-OPERATIVES OF ONTARIO

Mr. Ruston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Agriculture and Food. Is the minister aware of the serious financial problems facing the United Co-operatives of Ontario, which includes 45 member co-ops, 96 UCO sales and service units and 1,300 employees? Can the minister give us any assurance today that this important part of the agriculture economy of Ontario will be given his immediate attention to ensure that it carries on serving the farming community of Ontario?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, I would have thought the honourable member would know we are not only aware of the problems of the UCO, but have for some time been working with them to attempt to assist in finding a resolution to their problems.

As of two days ago, the UCO decided to petition itself into receivership. Price Waterhouse has been appointed by the Supreme Court of Ontario to be the receiver. At this point we have not heard from the co-op as to any restructuring that it is planning, although I would anticipate at some point it will want to sit down with us so we can be made aware of its plans.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, the minister must be aware that a number of UCO stores have already discontinued business across the province. Is he not concerned that he should be taking a position of more leadership in assisting them to maintain the services that have become so important to the farm community? Is he contemplating a request from UCO for actual monetary support?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Mr. Speaker, about a year and a half ago, following certain changes that had been made in the senior management, UCO came to see the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, following which they made a number of changes in their day-to-day business dealings. It sold its head office and now leases it back. It sold its fleet of trucks and leased them back. It sold its chicken processing plant and made a number of attempts to bring its operations under control.

3 p.m.

When UCO came to see me, I was not prepared on behalf of the taxpayers simply to write a blank cheque, as it were. I insisted that an

analysis be done of the UCO business enterprise. That analysis was done.

Based on that analysis we had indicated to UCO quite some time ago that, if we were going to respond positively to its previous request for financial assistance from the provincial government, there must be established and approved by the board of UCO and committed to by the senior management of UCO, a proper, sound business turnaround plan. That had not been done as of a few months ago, so discussions were continuing.

The latest development is what occurred 48 hours ago when UCO was granted its application by the Supreme Court of Ontario to appoint Price Waterhouse as its receiver.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Agriculture and Food will know that the first study that was done by Price Waterhouse, which has not been appointed as a receiver, indicated that UCO was fundamentally sound and that an injection of equity by both the federal and provincial governments would go a way to solving the problem.

While the federal government has attempted to move up the date in terms of its commitment on the \$7.5-million proposal—the half of the \$15-million proposal—there is a very wide perception, which the minister must be aware of, that the provincial government is now backing away from its commitment to see that UCO is saved and allowed to continue to exist, that jobs are not affected, and that savings and investments are not affected by a failure to provide UCO with the necessary capital.

Does the minister not realize that time is of the essence, that there are some parties to this difficulty which have a hammerlock over the UCO's affairs in the light of some of the securities they have? Does he not see the necessity now to move rather quickly in making up his mind, yes or no, whether he is going to provide the necessary assistance to UCO?

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: First, Mr. Speaker, the company is in receivership. We do not now have before us a request for government participation.

Mr. Rae: Oh, come on. Have you phoned them?

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Timbrell: Second, over the course of all the months we were working with UCO and encouraging the development of a proper turnaround plan, I never heard from the members of the third party once. I heard from a number of the members of the official opposition party saying we better be careful not to do anything because

they were concerned that we would be offending some of their other constituents. I had lots of those letters but I never heard from the members of the third party once.

NEWSPAPER LABOUR DISPUTE

Mr. Laughren: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of Labour. Is the minister aware of the six-month lockout at the Sudbury Star, Sudbury's only daily newspaper, owned by the Thomson chain?

Does he realize there have been a number of meetings during those six months with very little progress made and that talks were broken off yesterday? Does he think it is appropriate that a company that is Canada's 18th largest corporation, with profits of \$126 million last year, should be able to engage in such a blatant attempt to destroy three local unions representing 46 employees?

Finally, just what is the minister prepared to do other than to provide a conciliator when that is requested? Why is the minister so willing to deal with strikes but not so willing to deal with lockouts?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I am well aware of the circumstances in the Sudbury area. I am quite distressed at the length of the work stoppage and the difficulties in finding a resolution to the circumstances.

I have made it a policy in this Legislature, and the honourable member knows this, that when there is a dispute I will not comment on the positions taken by the two parties, the offers made by either of the parties or the responses to the offers. Particularly in cases where the positions seem to be locked in, collective bargaining is difficult and sensitive enough without making third-party comments in this Legislative.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, since the mediation efforts in question have not even dealt with wages, which is a clear-cut indication that the company is simply playing games, would the minister be prepared to do two things: (a) issue a directive to the company indicating that he expects it to negotiate in good faith, and (b) bring both parties to Toronto, to his office, to discuss the situation so that those 45 people can get back to work and the community can have a newspaper?

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, those are reasonable requests and I will certainly give them every consideration.

NIAGARA RIVER WATER QUALITY

Mr. Elston: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of the Environment. It refers to a hurried press release that he distributed today just before the opening of the Legislature concerning the terrible conditions that have been found at the Hyde Park dump site in the Niagara River.

I would ask the minister where his ministry officials were and where his predecessor was when the people of Pollution Probe and Operation Clean Niagara were fighting to save the Niagara River from the type of arrangements that were being negotiated in that settlement some three years ago. Where were his people when assistance was required? Where was his predecessor when that assistance was required?

Where has he been over this past year and some months when this terrible, toxic material has been flowing into the Niagara River and degrading one of the greatest bodies of water in all the world? Why would he not help when it was required?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, if the honourable member will look into the history of this ministry, with respect to not only my own term as minister but that of my predecessor—who had the foresight to establish the Niagara River team some years ago—

Interjection.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I listened very carefully to the question. I wish the honourable member would listen to the answer because it is a very serious problem.

The reality is that we put a study team in that area very specifically to monitor the operations that were going on. I refer not only to those at Hyde Park but also those at the S site, the SCA site, Love Canal and a whole series of other contaminated sites on the American side of that river.

My ministry has intervened directly in cases on the American side of the river with respect to this very serious problem. I do not think there has been a ministry of the environment anywhere in the country more directly involved in attempting to bring pressure on our American friends to the extent that we have, as good neighbours, in an attempt to resolve this problem. No one has shown more interest or more concern or been more directly involved than my ministry. I am quite amazed that the member would even raise the question in that context.

Mr. Elston: That minister describes himself as the messenger for his ministry rather than as the policy fashioner or co-ordinator. He should

probably understand there has not been, when required, the assistance coming out of that ministry for the people who are carrying the load which should have been shouldered from the beginning by his ministry. He has always shied away from taking a position. He has always opted for monitoring.

When is he going to get off his proverbial and get on with the job of ensuring that the river is cleaned up? When will he actually take some action that will ensure a cleanup and will prevent the erosion of the quality of that water? We could look at the S area, for instance, as an area where his activity has not been successful.

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I will ask the honourable member to refer to the news release that came out of my office today with respect to this question. About two weeks ago I personally went to New York state to visit the sites. I not only met with environmental groups while I was there but I had the opportunity to confront Occidental Chemical on this very serious question. I spoke to them about the efforts they are proposing to undertake with respect to a cleanup program.

We have intervened directly. We have taken action in this case. The member knows as well as I do that we cannot go out and in some unilateral way declare war on our friends to the south. We are attempting to co-operate with the state of New York, with the Environmental Protection Agency and with other environmental groups in the United States to get that cleanup undertaken in an appropriate fashion.

We have taken every responsible and appropriate step that any minister would take if he had my responsibility.

[Later]

Mr. Kerrio: Mr. Speaker, on a point of privilege: During the course of question period, the Minister of the Environment (Mr. Brandt) suggested there was no one more interested in the environmental issues of the Niagara River than he himself. I would like to bring to the minister's attention that as recently as this week, I attended Occidental Chemical's brief to the Department of Environment Conservation and I shall continue to pursue it.

3:10 p.m.

AIR POLLUTION

Mr. Charlton: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister of the Environment as well. The minister should be aware of a problem in the township of Alma, because he has letters from the township council and some of the local residents about what the township council

describes as the terrible odour problem caused by the Atwood Cheese Co. Ltd.

The minister has not yet responded to either of the letters I am aware of. It has now been more than a month. Why has the minister not responded? Why has it taken more than three years for his ministry to move the problem from the cheese plant site, where the whey was being dumped, to a new site even closer to the town, exacerbating the problem further?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: Mr. Speaker, problems that deal with environmental questions are always somewhat more complicated than the members of the opposition would like to believe. There are, of course, other matters that have to be taken into account, such as the jobs directly associated with a particular operation. I am sure the member would not suggest that we simply move in, without attempting to resolve the problem, and close the plant down or have those employment opportunities lost to this province.

The matter is under review by my ministry. We have been working with the cheese plant for some time now to attempt to find a solution that would be mutually acceptable to the residents and the company. We are looking at a host of alternatives. The reason I have not been back to the writers of the letter within the 30-day period is that we do not have all the answers at this time, but we should have some shortly and I will be most happy to share them with the member when I have them.

Mr. Charlton: I am asking my supplementary question especially because the minister has made it clear the problems related to solving this problem are financial. He raises the question of jobs.

I would like to ask the minister why it is that, in over three years of involvement in this problem, nobody from his ministry has suggested either to the company, the council or the local residents that the ministry of the gentleman who sits next to him has a specific financial assistance program that was set up in 1981 to deal with problems such as this, and no action has been taken by his ministry or this government even to let anybody know that the program exists. The program is specifically designed to deal with the dumping of whey, and financial problems are the only problems holding up the cleanup.

When is the minister going to get his act together and make existing programs available to those people?

Hon. Mr. Brandt: I would certainly be happy to consult with my colleague the Minister of Agriculture and Food (Mr. Timbrell) with

respect to any programs that might be available to assist the company. I am pleased the member mentioned that possibility to me. We will look into it.

Mr. Speaker: New question, the member for Rainy River.

Mr. T. P. Reid: Mr. Speaker, I have a question of the Minister of Health (Mr. Norton). Oh, he has gone.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION

Mr. McKessock: Mr. Speaker, my minister has left too. I will direct this to the Minister of Correctional Services.

I would like to address yesterday's court ruling which not only forces the Ontario Public Service Employees' Union to release secret government documents to the crown, but also to reveal the identity of the source. I believe that ruling demonstrates the power and speed with which the minister can pursue justice when it is in the government's best interests, justice in this case being keeping evidence of jail overcrowding secret.

What, if any, punishment is the minister planning to inflict on the civil servant who acted, based on this information, in his or her belief that it was in the public's best interests for him or her to do this?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Mr. Speaker, as the honourable member knows, the decision was made yesterday in the Supreme Court of Ontario. We are naturally delighted with the decision, but at this time it would be premature to say to the member what action might be taken if the name or names of the persons responsible are revealed.

Mr. McKessock: Will the minister act with the same expediency to pass legislation that will protect civil servants who feel it is in the public's best interests to disclose confidential information?

Hon. Mr. Leluk: Again, the decision that was made was made by the bench, and I will not comment on it. That is their prerogative.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I have a new question for the Attorney General (Mr. McMurtry), who I believe is somewhere in the assembly.

Mr. Martel: Can we get a cabinet minister or two in here?

Mr. Breagh: Some will not answer, some hide, some do not show up. It is disgusting.

Mr. Martel: You cannot find a cabinet minister.

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, my minister is here.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION

Ms. Bryden: Mr. Speaker, I have a question for the Minister responsible for Women's Issues.

Last spring the government promised in its throne speech to provide leadership in promoting positive affirmative action in crown agencies, school boards and municipalities. How can the minister pretend that grants averaging \$300 per municipality will encourage municipalities to hire affirmative action officers and create programs to correct what he calls "the municipalities' dismal record" in hiring and promoting women, particularly in view of the tight municipal budgets resulting from the province's shifting of more and more responsibilities to the municipalities and limiting transfer payments?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I think the honourable member does the whole cause of positive affirmative action some disservice. Let us quietly take a look this afternoon at what has happened since the Lieutenant Governor read that speech.

The Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and I have had an opportunity to speak to all the school boards of this province and to indicate to them that we are not satisfied with their progress to date. Indeed, we challenged those school boards at least to match the provincial government's record at the moment. I had an opportunity to meet with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario to give the same message.

The difficulty is that, instead of interpreting this and commending the government for this particular expression of leadership, the member concentrates on this one mechanism—that is, the incentive fund.

Mr. Martel: Get off it. Never mind the showboating.

Hon. Mr. Welch: It is obvious that there are not very many people who are interested in the answer. The member and I are interested, but there are many in her party who do not seem to be interested, because all they are doing is making interjections. I hope Hansard will record the lack of interest in my answer on the part of the third party.

Mr. McClellan: We are amazed, absolutely amazed.

Mr. Speaker: Order.

Hon. Mr. Welch: That is, the members of the third party other than the member who asked the question.

When we get to the incentive fund, to which the member makes reference, when we take out of the nearly 900 municipalities the hundreds of municipalities with fewer than 50 employees—no doubt those municipalities will respond to the challenge of the Deputy Premier in ways that will utilize staff resources that are currently there—then we have the difference; then the \$250,000 or more takes on a little different perspective from the straight division by the total number of municipalities. There may be many municipalities that will not require any financial help at all. The government will be very anxious to respond to all the requests that come.

Surely the main point is that this government, in keeping with the tone and the words of the speech from the throne, has been somewhat aggressive in making it quite clear that we are committed to the whole concept of positive affirmative action. We say to the municipalities—

Mr. Speaker: Thank you, Minister. Supplementary?

3:20 p.m.

Ms. Bryden: The minister's peanut incentive is an insult, not an incentive. Is he aware that the city of Scarborough just produced a report on an equal opportunity program for women in Scarborough and came up with an estimate of \$60,000 for the cost of hiring a director for such a program plus whatever support staff and space costs were needed in addition?

How can the minister expect municipalities to fund this kind of cost if he will not see that the provincial government provides the municipalities with sufficient transfer payments to enable them to add to their present funds? Why does he not make affirmative action mandatory so we do not have to depend on his kind of incentives?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I invite the honourable member to read the editorial in the Toronto Star today, which I think takes a very responsible approach to this whole question of affirmative action. Affirmative action really means equality of opportunity with respect to access to employment and promotion within places of employment.

There may be many employers today who do not have to spend any money to translate that principle into some positive action. There may be scores of municipalities which with their present resources do not have to spend any money on translating equality of opportunity.

I draw attention to the incentive fund as being of some help for some municipalities to have some resources and, indeed, some research that may be necessary. Who says one has to bribe

people to translate equality of opportunity? When the member concentrates on the incentive fund, she loses sight of the important progress being made with positive affirmative action.

I happen to believe, on the basis of my consultations with many major employers, that there is a great commitment and dedication to this whole principle. I am not getting preoccupied with dollars and cents, because we do not need money to translate these principles if we really think about it.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, before the minister gets so exercised that he loses contact with this issue entirely, can he inform the House whether, when he contacted all the school boards in the province, he informed them that their record of women in positions of administrative responsibility has actually been worse during the tenure of the minister immediately to his right?

Did he inform them that unless this act is cleaned up, we are going to take a legislative position, not necessarily by way of extra money but requiring that the school boards meet their responsibilities for affirmative action vis-à-vis women?

Did he inform them that we have moved away from the position taken by this minister when he was chairman of the school board in St. Catharines that women have little or no chance to assume any position of administrative responsibility?

Hon. Mr. Welch: Mr. Speaker, I say to my friend, while I still have contact with the question and the issue, that because of the particular interest he has shown in this matter over the years, an interest he has shared with me from time to time regardless of my responsibilities or his and particularly in view of the questions he had raised in this House, I thought he would have read very carefully the copies of the speeches I personally sent to him and which were delivered by my colleague the Minister of Education (Miss Stephenson) and myself to that particular conference. We underlined the concern; we stated that was quite unacceptable.

INTRODUCTION OF BILL

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION, GRAY COACH LINES, LIMITED AND GO TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ramsay moved, seconded by Hon. Miss Stephenson, first reading of Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines, Limited and GO Transit and Locals 113

and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

Mr. Speaker: Is it the pleasure of the House that the motion carry?

Mr. Martel: No. It is a rotten bill.

Mr. Speaker: All those in favour will please say "aye."

All those opposed will please say "nay."

In my opinion the ayes have it.

Motion agreed to.

Mr. Martel: Mr. Speaker, this is some compendium—one sheet of data and the bill. If this is a compendium, I want to know what a compendium really is.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, it has been agreed that, notwithstanding the standing orders, we will move to second reading of this bill at this time. I will call second reading of Bill 125.

Mr. Nixon: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I call your attention to standing order 53(a), which states as follows, "The order of the day for second reading of a bill shall not be called until the bill has been...marked 'printed' on the order paper." My colleagues have asked me to bring to your attention that we are not prepared to withhold unanimous consent simply on the basis that it is not on the order paper and not marked "printed."

Hon. Mr. Wells: Mr. Speaker, for the benefit of future historians who read the Hansard report of this debate, I think it should show that although it does not show that the bill is marked "printed" on the order paper, the bill in its printed form is in the hands of every member of this House.

3:30 p.m.

TORONTO TRANSIT COMMISSION, GRAY COACH LINES, LIMITED AND GO TRANSIT LABOUR DISPUTES SETTLEMENT ACT

Hon. Mr. Ramsay moved second reading of Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between the Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines, Limited and GO Transit and Locals 113 and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, I gave a 16-page statement before the question period

today, and I do not intend to expand upon those remarks. However, I would like to advise the House of some amendments that I will be moving a little later.

On advice that was received today, I want to move amendments that would clarify the intent of the bill. As originally drafted, the bill referred to Gray Coach Lines Ltd. as an employer of certain members of Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. In fact, the agreement with the Toronto Transit Commission has an appendix that is entitled "Gray Coach Employees Appendix."

However, as article 111 of the agreement provides that, in essence, all employees working at Gray Coach are on loan from the Toronto Transit Commission, therefore all of the employees are in fact employees of the commission. Therefore, to be precise and to clarify the wording of the proposed legislation for the parties, an amendment is desirable. I have asked for the amendments to be distributed to the respective parties opposite.

Mr. Speaker: Does any other member wish to participate in this debate? The member for Essex South.

[Applause]

Mr. Laughren: Scattered applause was heard.

Mr. Breagh: I really think there are mixed reviews of the Liberal caucus so far.

Mr. Mancini: The Toronto transit workers are going to give my friends in the New Democratic Party some reviews after today when they stand up hypocritically and say they do not want the papal visit to be disrupted—

Mr. Speaker: Would the honourable member please address his remarks to the bill?

Mr. Mancini: —and then they are going to turn around and vote against the bill. We have seen hypocrisy today. Hypocrisy has reached new heights today for the New Democratic Party.

Mr. Speaker: I think I have drawn the honourable members' attention to the use of that word in this House from time to time. I ask the member to withdraw it and not to use it in the future, please.

Mr. Mancini: I cannot use "hypocrisy" in the House? Then I will withdraw it. I will not call the NDP hypocritical any more.

Mr. Speaker, we find ourselves today in an emergency session of the Legislature convened at the call of the Premier because we have had failed negotiations with the Toronto Transit Commission and the workers' employer.

To understand fully why we find ourselves in this situation today, it is absolutely necessary to review the facts of the situation going back to last April. At that time it was made clear that there were going to be problems during this set of negotiations; it was made clear by the Minister of Transportation and Communications (Mr. Snow) and by the people who operate GO Transit specifically because of the agreement they wanted to change with Gray Coach.

For the past 10 years the employees of Gray Coach had worked on a contract basis. We must add at this time that Gray Coach is a subsidiary of the TTC and that Gray Coach did contract work on behalf of GO Transit. This satisfactory arrangement, which had worked well over the past 10 years, was to be ended by the government that sits across the floor. That started negotiations off on a very sour note indeed. Instead of the union being able to concentrate its efforts on getting a new contract for its employees, it had to concentrate all of its efforts on saving 230 jobs which were going down the drain.

The negotiations started off with the possibility that those jobs were gone for ever. The negotiations continued for some months. At a particular point in time, a resolution was reached between the transit union and the government of Ontario as to what would happen with the Gray Coach drivers. That resolution, I believe, met the concerns of the unions involved. From that point, the negotiations moved to the issues of the current dispute, which are mainly monetary from what I can find out and from what information has been made available to me.

We watched these negotiations take place with some trepidation, because we could see early on, as early as the end of June, that they were not going smoothly. The union's contract expired on June 30. Through tough negotiations, it reached a tentative agreement on August 3. The union was in a strike position on August 13. These dates are very important.

On August 3, the tentative agreement was reached. It was decided at a meeting on August 12 that the agreement should be put forward to the general membership for ratification. A vote of 106 in favour to 87 against was recorded at the meeting on August 12 to submit the agreement to the general membership. On August 15, that general membership meeting took place, and the agreement was turned down by a small margin.

What happened after August 15, in my view, is extremely relevant to this whole situation and is one of the main reasons we are here today. With the contract being narrowly rejected, what

action did the Minister of Labour (Mr. Ramsay) take? He decided, and I am sure with the agreement of the Premier (Mr. Davis), instead of having further mediation, instead of trying to help the sides come together, to send a letter to the union asking them to have a second vote. That is incredible and, in my view, soured the negotiations even further.

The workers who had attended the first meeting and expressed their opinion soon found out that their opinion was meaningless. The workers who stayed home, for one reason or another, were being chastised for staying home. Some people stayed home by choice. Some people stayed home because they did not want the contract. Others stayed home because they did want the contract. Still others found their feelings indifferent.

3:40 p.m.

The minister infringed on their rights. He asked them to take a second vote, hoping they would vote in a manner in which he wanted them to. He wanted these people to eat crow. I have quotations here from a number of workers who have stated that they voted "yes" on the first contract, but after being forced to have a second vote, they voted "no". They felt, rightfully so, their noses were being rubbed in the mud. I cannot imagine such action being taken by the minister.

The minister says he took this action because only 37 per cent of the total membership voted against the contract. That is a silly analysis. How many people voted in the last provincial election campaign? Fifty-two per cent of the total population of voting age voted in the last provincial election campaign. Of the total population, the Conservative Party did not get 37 per cent of the vote; yet it did not ask for another vote. It only did that in a situation when it wanted somehow to try to change the workers' minds about something it was not happy about.

Another meeting was called and another vote taken. By the figures I have, only 300 more people turned out to vote than did previously. Those are the figures I have. They voted against the contract by exactly the same margin as the first vote, approximately 52 per cent to 48 per cent.

After the contract was turned down a second time, extraordinary things happened. The Archbishop of Toronto volunteered to be a mediator. Vic Pathe of the ministry said, "There can be no more mediation. We are at our limit." On August 22 Mr. Pathe said in an interview there were no plans to go back to negotiations if the workers

voted to walk out on September 12. All the signals were pointing towards no more negotiations and legislation. That was the failure of the ministry.

From August 15 until today all that valuable time was wasted, first, by having a second vote and, second, by having another week pass with nothing but speculation as to what was going to be done by the government. Finally, we saw the Premier—in a grandstanding manner, if I may say so—make public that he was going to be the last mediator to try to resolve this dispute. Even though the Minister of Labour said today that the workers were not very close together, that they were very far apart, the Premier decided he would hold mediation talks in his office to see if he could bring both sides together. Of course, that did not happen.

Who are we to believe? Are we to believe the Minister of Labour, who said they were far apart on contract negotiations, or are we to believe the Premier, who said his mediation efforts might prove successful? That is a very serious question. Did the minister inform the Premier that it was his view that these two sides were very far apart? Did he inform him that it was his view, the view of his deputy minister and the view of his assistant deputy minister that mediation would not prove to be successful? If so, then we can say actually and honestly that the Premier engaged in grandstanding and in trying to grab a headline, which is a sorry state of affairs when we have involved in this dispute 7,000 workers, the papal visit—

Mr. Speaker: Order. The Minister of Labour on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: I would have to consult Hansard. I may have used the term “far apart,” I am not sure if I did or not. However, the point that has to be made here is that there was a memorandum of agreement that was accepted by the negotiating committee for Local 113. Please keep that in perspective.

Mr. Mancini: With all due respect to the minister, he did not say that in his very lengthy statement. He told the House today the sides were very far apart. That is exactly what he said.

A vote has taken place—one the minister evidently does not like, even though it was free and democratic. That is very interesting. In no way did the minister say or imply there were irregularities or problems with the vote. All he said was: “I do not like the vote. Let us have another one.”

Does the minister know what that does to working people when he tells them their point of view does not matter? Does he know what it means when he tells them he is going to have a second vote to see if he can change their point of view? A tremendous amount of unnecessary hostility has been created. The responsibility for it lies across the floor.

We find ourselves here today in a quagmire with no contract for the TTC workers, the possibility of a strike and the papal visit being disrupted. I have read the news clippings reporting what the workers have said. They have said they do not want to disrupt the papal visit.

As a matter of fact, the first strike date they set in no way would have affected the papal visit. The workers changed the strike date—and this is important—only after the Minister of Labour sent a letter saying: “I do not like your decision. Vote again.” That is when the union meetings got rough. That is when they changed the strike date. The minister used the papal visit as much as the workers used it.

We will support the legislation. We are not going to say in the Legislature what the leader of the New Democratic Party says. He said his party did not want the papal visit to be disrupted—those were his exact words—and then he turns around and says his party will not vote for the bill.

What the leader of the New Democratic Party has been saying over the past few days is very interesting indeed. The TTC workers might like to hear what he has been saying. First, regarding the recalling of the Legislature, he said—and I am paraphrasing—Premier Davis was recalling the Legislature this week to hamper the federal campaign activities of the opposition parties.

This is from the *Ottawa Citizen*, page 11, August 28: “The leader of the New Democratic Party is more worried about the political fortunes of Ed Broadbent and his former colleagues in Ottawa than he is about the papal visit and about the strike.”

He did not want to come here to deal with this problem, and I know why he did not want to come. He did not want to have to tell the people sitting in the galleries today that, on one hand, he did not want the papal visit disrupted, but on the other, he was going to vote against the bill. I cannot use the word “hypocrisy,” but I cannot think of a better word that would describe this.

3:50 p.m.

What else does the leader of the New Democratic Party say? He did not know how many of his caucus members would be able to be here today to take part in this very important

debate. He was not sure who would come to join him in taking part. Finally, he said—and it is in print—“Rae said he does not want the papal visit to be disrupted.”

I agree with him. We do not want the papal visit to be disrupted. We are going to vote for the legislation. The problems have been created by this Minister of Labour, who misused his authority somewhat, I believe, and by this government, which soured the negotiations from day one.

The government soured the negotiations by the threat of firing 230 workers. Then, of course, the government used its mediation team, but when mediation was really needed, after the first rejection vote, it withheld all its mediation services. It did not use its mediation when it was necessary.

Finally, I have to say this government across the floor has used the papal visit as much as anything else to pass this legislation. It has been recorded in any event, as has been documented by the news media and as will be documented today by the different speeches members will be making.

I do not think the government can be proud of itself. It has let down the people of Ontario. It interfered unnecessarily in collective bargaining.

Mr. Laughren: You will bail them out. Don't worry.

Mr. Mancini: Tell me about the papal visit. That will be an explanation I will be glad to hear.

Interjections.

Mr. Breagh: You are with them all the way.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: And to think he almost ran federally.

The Acting Speaker (Mr. Cousens): Order.

Mr. Mancini: We will see just how long it takes to pass this bill. We will see exactly what kind of fight there is. We will see exactly what their activities will be over the next day or two, and the NDP's activities will be watched by everyone, believe me.

When we needed mediation, it was not there. When we needed encouragement from the Minister of Labour, we had disruption instead of encouragement. When we needed the intervention of the Premier for a possible settlement, we were finally told today by the Minister of Labour that it did not matter anyway. The two sides were too far apart.

This government has mishandled the situation from day one. It has helped cause the strike. It has helped cause sour feelings between the workers and management. It has not used the

tools at its resource. We have had nothing but political grandstanding at the highest level, and by that I mean the Premier.

We are saddled here today with a bill we do not like and with a situation we have watched and at which we have been astonished. Finally, we are saddled with a bill we must pass if we want the papal visit to go on unobstructed and for the 800,000 or one million people who wish to attend the service to be able to be there. We are told that 500,000 people will use mass transit to get to Downsview. Those people want to attend this world event.

I say in all honesty the workers did not want this. They did not want it. They showed us they did not want it when they set their first strike date. That was an indication to all of us who watch labour relations and who can read the signs correctly that they did not want to be put in the situation they are in today. Thanks to the Minister of Labour, thanks to his government, that is exactly where we are, in a quagmire.

The only regret I have is that the government members may get good political marks for this. I truly, deeply, regret that because they do not need it.

Mr. Rae: Mr. Speaker, I must say the last statement is one I really agree with. It is hard to disagree with that one. On behalf of our party, I will just make a very few points I think are of real importance and I will be focusing on these points in the course of this debate.

There are a number of things the minister has said which I think, in all fairness to the minister, I will say are expressions of opinion with which we profoundly disagree. They are not statements of fact.

I do not want to repeat the rather lengthy assessment made by the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini) of the different steps that were taken in terms of the GO Transit, Gray Coach Lines Ltd. dispute and so forth. I want to focus on the central question in this discussion. The central question is what is the best way to ensure an agreement, a settlement, good labour relations and public transportation for the papal visit. What is the best way to ensure that?

I want to say to the minister in all sincerity I am convinced—and again this is an expression of opinion but it is something on which I disagree with the minister and something I feel very strongly about—if the government had been genuinely independent in this dispute, rather than a party to this dispute because of its position on restrictions and cutbacks in public sector finance, there would have been a settlement, an agree-

ment, and there would be goodwill. I can tell the minister there is not goodwill today and this legislation is not going to produce goodwill. It is going to produce the opposite.

If I could think of a contrast, I could think of nothing more dramatic than the difference between the actions of the Minister of Health and the Treasurer when the doctors were in dispute with the government of Ontario and their actions with respect to the workers in public transportation in Metropolitan Toronto. When the doctors were in dispute, they were falling all over themselves. They were meeting day and night. They could not find enough money. They managed to produce \$1.7 billion at the drop of a hat, an agreement that went to 14.5 per cent, 8 per cent or whatever it was. The figures were catastrophic in terms of the public treasury.

Contrast that and contrast the fact that the then Minister of Health was having meetings on the side with doctors. We saw articles saying these were the people the member for St. Andrew-St. Patrick (Mr. Grossman) was relying on in terms of the discussions he had, meetings with people who were friends of his, and that he had neighbours of his who were doctors and he was meeting with all kinds of people trying to get that kind of a settlement and that kind of an agreement. They left no stone unturned.

On this side, we suggested that since the doctors do not consider themselves to be part and parcel of any collective agreement, since they did not consider themselves to be employees under the Labour Relations Act and since they did not regard themselves as being subject to any of the collective bargaining legislation of this province, it was up to the province of Ontario to say, "We expect you doctors to work and perform like professionals because you say you are professionals."

What happened? The government rejected that point of view. "No, no," they said. What was the minister's line? He said: "We cannot afford to have unhappy doctors." I remember those words very clearly.

I want to say to the minister in all sincerity he cannot have it both ways. He cannot say we do not want to have unhappy doctors and, at the same time, turn around and say we do not mind having unhappy public transportation employees or unhappy people working in nursing homes and in hospitals. If the only people we worry about being unhappy are doctors, that is a terrible double standard.

I say to the minister, and he knows this full well, and it is the backdrop to all these

discussions, one of the concerns about the success of the papal visit is the number of people who are going to volunteer for overtime during that weekend. If he was really concerned about handling that problem in a sensitive way and in a way that is guaranteed to produce the goodwill of the people working in that important job, that important profession, if one will, the profession of providing the people of this great metropolitan centre with transportation during the day and during the nighttime, the Premier of this province would have not have taken the lordly view he took, saying: "Oh, I really do not want to interfere. I do not want to change any of the guidelines, but the parties have not been able to reach a conclusion of this and there is no resolution of this dispute."

4 p.m.

That is the line the minister has used. That is simply untrue. It simply does not coincide in any way with common sense. What is the reality? The reality is we had an agreement that was reached after many months of hard negotiations between a trade union and the employer, which was carried out under the umbrella and under the shadow of public sector cutback policy. The cutback policy meant the employer felt he had no real independence, felt he could not go over and above an arbitrary figure, the sacred five per cent figure we have heard time and again in this Legislature and which the union recommended to the membership, saying, "This is the best we can do in light of the legislation we are now working under." That recommendation was defeated by an extremely narrow vote.

The minister knows perfectly well that this is not the first time a recommendation from a bargaining committee has been rejected by the membership. It does not happen every day of the week, but it happens; and it is more likely to happen with the kind of legislation he is producing and has produced over the last three years. He is going to create more conflict within unions than he has ever seen before because of the difficulties he is creating for bargaining committees. He is making it very difficult, if not impossible, for bargaining committees to come up with settlements they can sell to their members. That is the problem with the kind of approach he is taking.

That was a signal to me—and, like everybody else, I watched the scenario unfold—that the parties were in fact very close, and by "the parties" I mean the whole of the union and the employer. Surely when the membership takes a vote that is so close it is not saying, "We are

determined to go out on strike and this agreement is totally unacceptable"; this is not the message I get from that vote. The message I get from that vote is: "We are unhappy. We are not entirely satisfied with this. We think you can do a little bit better. We think the package can be rearranged in such a way as to make it better."

It was at that point that Mr. Porter came in on his high horse, and he does sound to me like somebody on a high horse, even though he is supposed to be representing the public transit people of this province. We have all seen him on television advocating the advantages of public transportation. But he did not sound to me like somebody riding a streetcar when he came in; he sounded a lot more like somebody on a high horse. He simply said: "We have done our best. Too bad. Take it or leave it. We have to have back-to-work legislation."

That is the overall political context in which this government has been operating—an employer who knew all the way through the process that at the end of the day he could always pick up the telephone and say to his good friends in the Tory party and in the government, the people he sees all the time, "If you want to make your legislation on restraint and cutbacks stick, you are going to have to be prepared to get tough and back me up in these negotiations," and the Premier and the Minister of Labour would say, "Ready, aye, ready."

They should not have said, "Ready, aye, ready." They should have said: "No, we are sorry. We think it is important to get a settlement." Bill 111 says that this is what they can do. Subsection 11(1) of Bill 111, the bill the minister was very reluctant to talk about in question period today—he wanted to pretend it did not exist, as if it somehow were not part and parcel of this whole dispute—says very clearly—

Interjection.

Mr. Rae: The minister can have her turn. I know she will be articulate in the defence of working people when her chance comes.

Mr. R. F. Johnston: As she always is.

Mr. Rae: As she always is. I know she will be there, riding the crest of the 17th century, which she does so well. The minister is setting a bad example for the students going back to school next week.

Subsection 11(1) says: "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations, (a) terminating in whole or in part the application of this act to a group compensation plan to which this act applies where there exist special circumstances that justify such termination in keeping

with the spirit and intent of this act." What is the papal visit if not a special circumstance?

I know it is not in the act anywhere. Talking about Bill 125 without talking about that visit is sort of like Hamlet without the prince. It is mentioned nowhere in here. The possibilities of a breakdown and endangering the public safety and all sorts of things are mentioned in the bill, but there is no mention of the reality that underscores everything we are talking about here. If this government had wanted to be flexible, what would have been the alternative? The alternative is not strike or no strike; the alternative is bargain or do not bargain, settle or do not settle. That is the alternative and what this debate is about.

This government has decided it can ride roughshod over collective bargaining without having to worry very much, because the people who are involved do not have a lot of leverage, they do not have a lot of choice, they do not have a lot of power. That is the political choice, and the contrast with the doctors and with those who have power in our society is so clear.

This is a government that is riddled with a double standard, a standard for those who are better off and a standard for those who are not. It likes nothing better than to pit the elderly pensioner who is stuck in an Ontario Housing Corp. building somewhere against a transportation worker who is working 13 or 14 hours a day and having to leave home at 6:30 or seven in the morning and get home at 11 p.m. The government would like nothing better than to make enemies of those two groups of people. That is the kind of approach it takes in attempting to set the public and the public interest against the interests of working people and getting a fair agreement.

I say most people in this society know full well that it is better to get a public settlement which will guarantee collective bargaining rights. That is what they want to see. What do people want? They want the papal visit to succeed and they want an agreement.

I do not think people are massively in favour of this kind of legislation once it is explained to them. This is not legislation that guarantees peace, tranquility and justice at the Toronto Transit Commission. It is legislation that guarantees continuing difficulties and ill will. I have described it on other occasions as being rather like putting a stopper in a kettle that is boiling when the minister turns around and says, "I have solved this problem." He has not solved the

problem and the Premier has not solved the problem.

I am sorry the Premier is not here because he is obviously the Edgar Bergen of this piece. He is responsible for the legislation. He knows what is coming up here. I think it is important—

Mr. Hennessy: He is Charlie.

Mr. Rae: No, you have it wrong. Let it be said that the member for Fort William (Mr. Hennessy) considers the Premier to be Charlie McCarthy. If that is the way he wishes to describe his own leader, I can only wish him well. He has a long way to go before he comes up there. I understand the Premier has a long memory in these matters. I say that to the member in all goodwill.

Interjections.

An hon. member: Who is Mortimer Snerd?

Mr. Rae: I will tell the member who Mortimer Snerd is after this is over.

I think there is a choice and the choice is this. I think the government should say to itself even at this time that it is possible to get an agreement. I do not think this legislation should be proceeded with.

I should also say that there are aspects of this agreement, if I may get into some of the smaller technicalities, that I do not think people fully understand. The full brunt of the government's unfairness should be understood.

As the minister has stated, there is not just one collective agreement, there are three. There is the collective agreement with the Amalgamated Transit Union which has been negotiated and which we have discussed; there is one with the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers which involves some 40 workers, and there is one involving the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 2, which affects more than 200 workers.

I say to the minister in all sincerity that the message to CUPE, Local 2, is very clear. I am told by parties to the negotiations that there are 49 pages of proposals from the employer and more than 20 pages of proposals from the union with respect to clauses throughout that collective agreement. No agreement has been reached by the parties on any of them. The employer has yet even to put money on the table with regard to the discussions.

This is the first time in the history of negotiations in the recollection of those involved that so little progress has been made. Granted, they follow the pattern; I am not disputing that aspect of the minister's statement. What kind of

message is the minister giving to those workers? They are not even in a legal position to strike. They have not even held a strike vote. They have just completed conciliation and they are on their way to mediation.

Maybe the public does not understand the technicalities involved here, but the minister understands them. He is not there as the minister for management or for public enforcement; he is the minister who is supposed to be responsible for protecting the rights of labour and explaining to his colleagues in the cabinet that what is being done is incredibly ham-handed and ham-fisted. It is using a sledgehammer to deal with a problem that could be dealt with much more easily and readily.

According to the legislation before us, those workers are being told the arbitrator will deal not just with some of the matters in dispute between the parties, but in the sense of the dispute with CUPE, Local 2, the arbitrator will be able to rewrite the entire agreement, because that is how many things are in dispute between the parties.

How does the minister think a union feels? I am speaking on behalf of the workers who are involved in this. How does he think the workers who have been involved in negotiations feel? They represent 200 people involved in electrical maintenance. They have been through a bargaining process. The government has set up the law. They are going through a maze of conciliation meetings that has produced a complete deadend. They have gone through the maze and up through the stages. They have had meetings that have produced no result whatsoever. Hours and hours of negotiation and discussion have taken place.

4:10 p.m.

The bottom line is everything is up for grabs. They are all caught under the same net and subjected to the same treatment. I say it is unnecessary. The minister says he cannot conceive of a way of solving that problem. I say the minister has not even tried. He did not even talk to the people who were involved in that part of the dispute until yesterday. They were not part of the discussion with the Premier earlier on. I suspect the Premier was not even aware that there were other workers involved. They were not even contacted at all in terms of these discussions. They were just simply told, "You are going back to work. Everything you are working for and your entire terms of agreement are going to be handed down by an arbitrator. Bargaining is finished."

I have to hand it to this government. It has a statement here which says, "We will be glad to

provide the union and the employer with the conciliation rules." It is prepared to convene mediation if both parties are receptive. Why would the employer in a million years want to jump into mediation when he knows he has an arbitrator—and I am going to come to this point next—who cannot be independent, cannot be seen as independent and will not be independent, who will be working within a straitjacket and with his hands shackled? When an employer knows what the restraint legislation says and the anti-union, anti-worker bias of this government with respect to the public sector, why would any public sector employer or quasi public sector employer even bother with mediation?

What the government is doing is the same thing it did under the Inflation Restraint Act and the Inflation Restraint Board. It gave a free ticket to every meat-headed employer in the public sector who wanted to forget about bargaining, good faith and fairness. It gave them a blank cheque. That is the kind of atmosphere it has created in the public sector. As the Minister of Labour he should be ashamed of it, rather than being so proud of it, as he appears to be.

I come to the point I made earlier and which I feel very strongly about, and it is something which simply has to be said: the gutting of the arbitration process as it affects the fairness between the parties.

I say to the minister in all sincerity, and he can accept this with all the partisan shell he chooses to accept it with, it is my judgement—through my experiences I have met and worked with a number of arbitrators over many years—that I have never seen morale as low as it is in the arbitration profession. I have known many distinguished arbitrators; people whom as a law student I respected as people who were outstanding in their contribution to the development of industrial jurisprudence; people who were committed not to one side or the other—they were tough on employees when they had to be and they were tough on employers; people who followed in the great tradition of Mr. Justice Laskin in his thinking about the need to provide real fairness, who developed a body of law in this province we can be really proud of, the quality of arbitration which we have seen; people like Owen Shime and George Adams, who used to work very closely with the minister, people of some real independence and stature; people like Mr. Teplitsky, who has been outspoken in his criticism of the legislation.

What has each one of these people said? They have said there is no more independence in the

arbitration process because of the attitude of this government. Many of them have said: "We will not handle industrial relations disputes. We are not interested in working for the government. We do not see ourselves as glorified policemen for the government of Ontario. We want to be people who are going to be neutral arbitrators and judges, able to exercise our independence and call the shots as we see them. If we think the government is wrong, we want to be able to say the government is wrong. If we think the government is right, we want to be able to say the government is right."

Instead of that, the minister has created a situation where arbitrators are simply going to be civil servants and unable really to exercise any independence of the government. With respect to what the Premier has said on this subject many times, I think he has seriously undermined, in a way I think is genuinely unforgivable, the quality of industrial jurisprudence and the quality of industrial fairness in this province by the kind of cheap shots he has taken at the arbitration profession and by the kind of way in which he has seriously misunderstood, misread and, I believe, misstated the quality of industrial jurisprudence and the kind of decisions they have made.

He has taken cases out of context and said they were wrong. He has misunderstood arguments that have been made and he has misstated them in this Legislature. That is the backdrop of the kind of ill will that exists within the arbitration profession and the kind of real concern that exists among the public sector employees themselves as they look at the kind of gun that has been put to their head by the government of Ontario.

What the government has basically said is: "You cannot bargain. You cannot push to reach an agreement." You cannot even reject an agreement because as soon as you do, even if it is three weeks before a strike date, that is an invitation not to bargain again, not to go back to the table, but just to say goodbye and say: "Well, we will see you later, we will see you in court—or we will see you in the Legislature. We will ram it through. We have our majority. We will do the trick."

I say to the minister that approach to industrial relations is going to cause untold damage to the goodwill and untold damage to the need to create a sense of trust among employees for the kind of work that goes on in the public sector.

I say to the government that it cannot have it both ways. It cannot take away the right to strike, which it has done with respect to Toronto Transit Commission employees—the government cannot

take that away, even under international law—without providing a substitute which is seen by both parties as being a genuinely fair substitute for the right to strike.

The government has not given them any kind of substitute for the right to strike. All it has provided them is a one-way ticket to an agreement which they will have very little ability to genuinely influence and with which the arbitrator will have his hands tied in terms of the ultimate result.

I say to the minister that he was warned about this several months ago. He was told by Mr. Rory Egan himself who, at that time, worked for the arbitrators under the Police Act. He wrote a letter and said:

“My concern is that these expert and independent arbitrators may cease to be available since the proposed legislation will impinge upon their independence and experience and render their decision neither final nor binding, or at least subject to delay in implementation. In summary, we are fearful that the arbitrators selected by the commission”—he is talking about the police commission—“will lose their effectiveness through their being perceived as emanations of the review board rather than as independent neutrals.”

I want to say to the minister, in the light of section 10 and in the light of the government's failure to invoke section 11, in the light of all that is stated in Bill 111, in the light of the attitude which the employer has taken and in the light of the attitude that the Premier has taken, that in looking at this legislation the employees would be mistaken if they saw this as anything other than a stacked deck, a deck that is stacked against them, that is systematically unfair and that cannot guarantee fairness in the public sector of this province.

I say to the minister that he can take it away once, he can take it away twice, and with the public mood—it is very variable; it depends—he apparently can get away with a great deal on that side. But I say to the minister that he will pay the price, and he is starting to pay the price.

He is paying the price in terms of ill will. He is paying the price with respect to confrontation between employer and employee. He is paying the price with respect to confrontation and conflict within the labour movement and between people who have been elected and people who think there is a lot more out there to get.

The minister is creating a climate which is not going to be fruitful, which is not going to be constructive and co-operative and all those things

that all the Mulroney ads tell us about, but which is going to be very tough and very strife-torn and very much more reminiscent of Bill Bennett and British Columbia than the kind of pap we have been hearing from Mr. Mulroney over the last four weeks.

That is what we are seeing. It is Bill Bennett in drag. I described it that way several months ago and that is exactly what this is. It is exactly the same thing. It is the same attitude. It is the attitude of: “Well, we do not have to worry about rights too much because we have polls that show that 90 per cent of the people are in favour of us. We do not have to worry about those rights now because we have the support of 88 per cent. We do not have to worry about rights because we have the support of 82 per cent on some other poll.”

I would just say this to the minister. The basic public interest in this province is in protecting rights and not in undermining them. The basic public interest is in ensuring that agreements are negotiated in good faith and settled in good faith.

I say to the minister that if he does not get the answer he wants the first time and he does not get the answer the second time, he does not come running to the Legislature for a hammer. He should say to the parties, “Go back into that hotel room and do not come out until you have got an agreement.” That is what he must tell the parties to a dispute when it is as serious as the one involved here, and I am not underestimating the seriousness at all.

4:20 p.m.

I think that is the attitude one should have, instead of which the minister gets people who are prepared to say, “We will take the side of the employer because we can afford to do that politically and because we do not have anything to worry about.”

I know the political culture of this province is a very deferential one. I know that peace, order and good government are not only part and parcel of the Canadian Constitution but also very much part of the Canadian political culture. I say to the minister he will regret the undermining of confidence, the undermining of rights, the undermining of the sense of confidence people have to have that their government is not just a fall guy for the employer but a body that is prepared to be equally tough with the employer when it needs to be.

In closing, I want to draw some contrasts for the minister because he himself ended his speech by saying, “Only in extraordinary circumstances where public health, safety, or economic well-

being is in jeopardy has the government restricted collective bargaining rights."

What exactly does that mean? I can think of literally thousands of employees in this province who have been on strike for months and months. He knows where they are and who they are because they are the cases on his desk which are called the insoluble ones. They are the cases that will not go away. They are the cases for which there is no solution.

Does the minister not think those workers are suffering? They do not have any great leverage. They work in plants in places such as Welland, Fort Erie and the west end of Toronto. They work in Mississauga and Sudbury. They may not make it on the front pages of the newspapers, and they certainly do not make it on the front pages of the *Toronto Star* or the *Toronto Globe and Mail* or any of those papers. They may not have a great deal of leverage. I would say they do not make it to the front pages of the paper in Sudbury, but there are no papers in Sudbury. Nevertheless, they are people who have been out for months. In some cases, they have been out for more than a year.

Why have they been out for more than a year? It is because the employer can say they cannot reach an agreement. Frequently, but not always, it is somebody coming in from the United States. It is a new kind of barbarism that has come up from Reaganite America, and it is being imposed on many private sector disputes right now in Ontario. This new barbarism in labour relations has gone on for months and months and the minister has sat by and done absolutely nothing.

I have letters on my desk. I have had conversations with the conciliators and mediators in his ministry, and I know them well. I respect them and think highly of them. Unfortunately, they are working for a government that does not allow them to do their work properly, or as well as they could be doing it, and they say: "We are powerless. The parties cannot reach an agreement." What does that mean? That is not what it really means. It means the employer will not reach an agreement. It means the employer does not want to reach an agreement. It says the employer does not have to reach an agreement; so we have people who after six months lose all their seniority.

I wish the minister had been down with me at the Hussman Store Equipment Ltd. factory in Brantford, where the people have been on strike for months and months. The strike has been going on since December 16, 1983. The American employer has proposed a contract which

takes away every single right that has been bargained over the past 10, 20, even 30 years, and the Ministry of Labour has been utterly powerless to effect a resolution of that dispute. The ministry has sat on its hands and has not been able to do anything.

How does the minister feel? What is the government doing about the economic wellbeing of the worker who is in his late 50s and who has all his seniority taken away because the Labour Relations Act does not protect it after six months? He is literally out in the street without any guarantee of future employment whatsoever because this government has sat around and said: "We cannot interfere in labour relations. We believe in free collective bargaining."

I say to the minister, this government does not believe in collective bargaining. This government believes in taking away bargaining rights from people who need it. This government believes in sitting on its hands in cases where it could be doing something for the workers of this province, where time and again it has deliberately chosen to side with the employer and never with the employees who are faced with the enormous problem of trying to reach an agreement.

Let me give another example. At the Horton CBI Ltd. plant in Fort Erie, 35 workers have been on strike since February 2. The work force was 160 to 170 before the recession. I know the member for Erie (Mr. Haggerty) is aware of the situation. He says there are 100 or more who are going to remain on the layoff list. The rest have lost their seniority rights altogether.

What did the company want? This is a company that is not losing money. It is an American company that is doing very well. Let us see what it wanted. All it wanted was a three-year agreement with an initial 10 per cent wage cut and removal of the co-operative work study program, which the minister knows is a job evaluation study that has been in the plant since 1955; it has been there for nearly 30 years. It wanted take-backs on medical and other benefits. It wanted two days of holiday taken away. It wanted changes in vacation pay and it wanted to change the language on seniority.

The union offered to sign a two-year contract with a zero per cent pay increase, and it still does not have an agreement at Horton CBI Ltd.

If the minister and the government keep sitting there the way they have been doing there will not be an agreement, because they are not prepared to do what is necessary with employers who are refusing to negotiate in good faith and refusing to

negotiate agreements. They are interested only in helping those managers who want to force unfavourable and unacceptable agreements. They have done nothing to protect the rights and the economic wellbeing of the ordinary employee who is caught in a situation that is out of control.

When one exceeds that six-month period, the minister knows perfectly well that there are no guarantees. I can go over the examples. There is the client of the member for Yorkview (Mr. Spensieri), who represented the employer at the Ontario Labour Relations Board, Viceroy Manufacturing Co. Ltd. on Dupont Avenue, which has locked out its people for more than a year. It is nice to see the member for Yorkview taking the side of the workers in that dispute. We know where the Liberal Party stands in these matters.

They have been locked out for more than a year and a half without a collective agreement, and the ministry has done nothing. Those workers have no bargaining power. Their morale is destroyed. They are wandering around on the street not knowing where their next job might come from. They are determined to try to protect their seniority rights, but they have been taken away. The minister knows that is legal in Ontario, and he knows it is apparently okay to do that in this province.

At the same time it is also okay to come in here draped in all the pompous language that one can possibly think of, all the language about public safety, public welfare and public health, and simply argue as an errand boy for a manager or an employer in a particularly difficult dispute in the public sector. I think there is a double standard at work in labour relations.

We have the government taking sides. We have a government that does not even pretend to be neutral any more in these disputes. The minister sat back and did nothing when nursing homes were firing workers left and right. We had months of uncertainty when the minister could have solved that problem with the stroke of a pen. There would not even have been disagreement from the Liberal Party, I dare say, in protecting the rights of nursing home workers who have been affected by this epidemic of contracting out. The minister chose to do nothing, creating that atmosphere of uncertainty.

There are people who are out on the streets today in small and medium-sized towns throughout this province because the employers see a particular political atmosphere and they are prepared to take advantage of it. They see an economy that is in a particular state and they are

prepared to take the most ruthless kind of advantage of it, regardless of the state of their profits. This government is prepared to sit back and say: "That is okay for them. There is nothing we can do. The law says they can do that."

Yet when we get a dispute in Metro Toronto with the transit workers, somehow the government manages to find a way of solving a problem in 30 seconds: "No problem. If that is what Julian Porter needs, we will do it. If that is what is required, we will do it." I must confess that I am baffled and, indeed, horrified by the policies of this government. I think they are unfair and I think they are, if I may put it this way to the minister, unwise.

I want to close with this because it is a message I would like to get through. I know it is difficult, in the light of public perceptions and various statements and misrepresentations that are made, to get this point across, but I mean it and I believe it very sincerely. Our party has often been portrayed by the Tory party and by the Liberal Party simply as some kind of automatic spokesman for the labour movement in any matter that comes before the government, as if that is some kind of reflex action on our part.

I want to say to the government and to the Liberal Party that this is really a tortuous and rather fatuous misconception of how the world works. If we were preoccupied with political success or with getting some kind of media public relations return, we could just vote for this legislation and encourage the government to do what a great many people would obviously like to see it do, which is to end the dispute. Obviously everyone wants to see an end to the dispute. It is not very difficult. We do not even need a poll to know that. If we were to ask people, "Would you rather have a TTC strike or would you rather not have a strike?" I would think that 99 per cent of the people would say, "No, we do not want a strike."

4:30 p.m.

Who wants a strike? Nobody wants a strike. I do not want a strike, and I do not mind saying it. I have talked to many people in the union, and they do not want to strike. Nobody wants one. This is a strike that nobody wants to happen; I believe that quite sincerely. I even think a significant number of the people who voted against the agreement do not want to strike. The date was postponed, and there was a long window there to reach a settlement.

The position the government has taken is unwise. What would the wiser course have been? What is it in the interests of this government and

province to do? It is in the interests of this province and its people, regardless of how they work for a living, to do several things: to ensure that the papal visit is a success—everybody wants that; to ensure that a very important public service is maintained; and to ensure the rights of people, no matter how powerless they may be, are protected, guaranteed and assured. It seems that is the wise goal of public policy and not an impossible one to reach.

We are not talking here about a special interest but about everybody's interest. It is in the public interest to see that rights are maintained. They should not simply be dismissed because it is inconvenient to deal with them or because it would be politically embarrassing to admit that Bill 111 makes it impossible to reach an agreement. Rights should not be dismissed because it would be politically difficult for the government to admit that labour relations in the public sector are starting to deteriorate, which they most obviously are.

What we have here is not a course of wisdom or prudence, which is the role the patriarchy from Brampton likes to play all the time. What we have is simply special pleading on behalf of a particular management. Rather than make another offer and try to resolve a dispute, they prefer to hide behind the cloak of government legislation and say, "We cannot reach an agreement." All the words in the minister's statement really add up to that. They add up to the simple, basic point, which I think is untrue, that there was no other course for the government to follow.

I disagree fundamentally with the Liberal Party and the member for Essex South (Mr. Mancini). They say that somehow it is impossible to have, at the same time, a resolution of this dispute and a successful papal visit, without having to resort to this kind of very primitive legislation. I feel very strongly that it is possible to have both those things and that there is still time to get them. Let us not forget it is weeks away.

If the minister is genuinely interested in seeing that goodwill is maintained and established for a longer period of time and that we do not get into these conflicts in the public sector, he is going to have to change his ways. He is going to have to change his tune.

There are people who have negotiated, worked hard and put faith in a process the government told them they should have faith in. The government has turned around and basically doublecrossed them. It doublecrosses people

who put faith in those in government who have been saying: "If you reach this kind of agreement, we will respect all the aspects of that agreement." There are people who are very unhappy with the government's policy.

Of course, there are those who know little of the dispute and who only read in the paper: "The dispute has been settled." It has not been settled. The matter has not been resolved. The matter has been postponed. The minister has succeeded in doing little by ramming through this legislation and by bringing back the Legislature, I believe unnecessarily.

He knows full well that we are in the middle of the last week of a political campaign, and he knows full well the implications of that for the politics of this province and for the future of political decisions of this province. He knows full well the commitment that members have with respect to the election. We have weeks until the visit itself, and there are those of us who view this as a political con game by the government. It is a con game we intend to expose.

The government cannot wrap itself in the cloak of public order and public safety and get away with it any longer. It does not add up. People who have thought about this, talked about it and are concerned about the future of labour relations in this province know what the government is doing. They know it is ham-fisted, heavy-handed and clumsy in the extreme.

I have compared the government's performance in these matters in the past to watching a dinosaur breakdance. It has this tragicomic element to it—one has to have a sense of humour in these matters—but an awful lot of people get hurt in the process. That is what is happening: a lot of people are getting hurt in the process.

I, for one, will be voting against this legislation. It is important for the House to deal with it. Frankly, it is important that we recognize the realities of where we are in Ontario and what the political agenda is. I know it would make nobody happier than the minister, the Premier and members of the Liberal Party to have our party here for weeks and days on end debating this legislation. That would make them happier than anybody else in Ontario, and we do not intend to make them happy.

I am convinced that this position of our party is the position that makes sense. Let the people decide. Let the Premier call the election when he chooses to call the election, and I will be proud to go before the people of this province and say we happen to believe in democratic collective bargaining; we happen to believe we have a

government that has a double standard, a standard for the rich and a standard for everybody else; we happen to believe this is a government that has systematically taken away rights from the people. I will be very proud and happy to take that case and to make that case on behalf of our party and to stand with the result that comes.

But let us not pretend this is not just a political con game by the government. It is a game we do not intend to play. We are voting against the legislation. We are convinced it is wrongheaded, and we are convinced it is going to cause greater problems than the minister now understands. I hope he changes his mind. From experience, I know that is a very rare event and indeed, with the Premier, almost an impossibility.

I commend our opinion to you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to hearing from my other colleagues in this matter. It is a case I have been very proud to make before the people of Metro Toronto and the people of Ontario. It is a position that makes sense.

We want an agreement. We want a papal visit. We want good industrial relations. We want fairness for employees. We want guarantees for all those people working for the Toronto Transit Commission, for GO Transit and for Gray Coach and for all those people who have worked so hard to reach agreements and make settlements. We want those things to be accepted and guaranteed in total by the ministry. They have not been. Therefore, we are voting against this legislation. The minister will be sorry for the day he ever brought it in.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I want to start out by saying how pleased I am to be able to be present at the kickoff rally of the Tory re-election bid in Metro. That is the only conclusion one can draw when one comes down to this place from my office on the fourth floor, as I did.

Just before I left, I checked the calendar. I remember reading that the Pope is going to be here on September 14. That is the day he is going to arrive in Toronto. I checked the calendar because I said to myself, "The crisis must really be at hand." Lo and behold, the calendar said this was only August 29.

What we are doing here today is providing the backdrop to the wrapup of the "Mulroney can do it" campaign and the kickoff for the "Davis can do it" campaign. That is what all this is about. This is the ultimate, final political grandstand of the most cynical, orchestrated few days in recent labour relations history in this province.

There is no reason whatsoever in the world why the mediators, why the Minister of Labour,

why his deputy minister, why the top mediators are not sitting in a hotel room now saying, "Let us get this thing resolved."

My friend the leader of the third party and I may differ when the vote comes later on. We may split and we may differ in very many ways.

Interjections.

Mr. Wrye: I hear the member for Nickel Belt (Mr. Laughren), but he knows how we are voting on this. I would have been very interested to see what would have happened on September 13, but he will not have to face that crisis.

I must say that, for all of the points where I disagree with the conclusion of my friend the leader of the third party, I certainly agree with the suggestion that 12 or 13 days before a strike is scheduled to begin is not a time for this House to be in session debating a bill such as we have here in Bill 125.

4:40 p.m.

It would be useful, since the Tories have chosen to make this the kickoff of their re-election campaign, to review for the members of the Legislature, the members of the gallery and the public in general, just how competently the Tory government has managed this whole affair. I thought my friend the member for Essex South captured in a very good way the whole spirit of the government's ham-handed, clumsy and ultimately disastrous handling of this whole negotiation process.

It was very clear when the vote was taken on August 15, when the results were counted, with 52 per cent voting "no," that we were at a point where we were very close to a settlement. In fact, as members all know, the union executive had accepted the agreement, had agreed to a tentative settlement, and the membership only very narrowly, by fewer than 200 if I remember, voted against it. My friend the member for Essex South has made a suggestion, and I think his suggestion is the wise one. I keep hearing from my friend the Minister of Labour just how good the mediation efforts of this government are, how good the mediators are, what high quality they are. Frankly, since I was formerly Labour critic for this party, one of the things I must say is I must agree with the minister that there are high-quality mediation services offered by this government. There is a very high and competent quality to the mediators.

Instead of saying, "Now get back with the parties, we are at the edge of a breakthrough, we are at the edge of a settlement," what did this minister decide to do? He said: "Well, 1,900 people did not vote. Let us have another vote." I

guess it almost begs the question whether, if the vote had been 52 to 48 in favour, he would have said: "Well, 1,900 did not vote. Let us have a second vote." I thought the analogy from the member for Essex South was terrific. I did not hear this minister get up on his feet after the last provincial election to say: "Mr. Premier, we got only 25 per cent of the vote and 44 per cent of the people of Ontario did not vote. We had better do it again because we do not really have a right to govern."

In this democratic society we take the vote. We say to the workers: "There will be a vote this Sunday. Show up if that is your will." Some workers were ill. Some workers had other business. Some workers, believe it or not in the month of August, were probably away on holidays. I know that thought perhaps never crossed the minister's mind, but maybe a few people were away on holidays. There were a lot of good reasons. Some workers, as in elections, as with union votes—any kind of a vote—simply choose not to vote, but that is their right in a democracy.

The minister did not like the vote. He did not say to the mediators, "Let us sit down and get them behind closed doors and let us not come out until we rearrange the dollars, until we rearrange the benefits, until we rearrange the working conditions, until we rearrange something to get that extra 95 votes." It did not take a switch of 187; it would take a switch of about 95 votes. Instead, what did the minister do? He said, "Let us have a second vote."

I happened to be here in Toronto. It was the one time I have been down here this month before today. I have been back tending to constituency matters in Windsor—maybe a few others as well. But I happened to be here just before the order in effect was given: "Why don't you folks just have a second vote. Let us do it again. I did not like it the first time."

Hon. Mr. Ramsay: Mr. Speaker, on a point of order: The member said I ordered a vote. The member for Essex South earlier stated I forced a vote. I suggested a vote.

Mr. Wrye: Mr. Speaker, I will go along with the minister that he suggested strongly they have a second vote. What really surprised me was not the reaction but that he would find the reaction unexpected because the reaction was an obvious one. People who voted the first time in favour of the contract said: "We are going to vote against this thing because we are not going to be bullied. We are not going to be pushed around. We still believe it is a good result, but we are simply

going to vote on the principle that the first vote should have stood." At that point, positions really hardened.

In spite of that, the second vote again showed only a 52 per cent "no." At that point, it seems to me, there still remained a possibility that a settlement could be reached. Obviously, they were so very close to a settlement. The minister described the impasse as being that wide. I cannot believe that with a swing of 95 votes the impasse was that wide. It seems to me that some good, tough bargaining could have produced the kind of change that the executive could have gone back with to the membership, and we could have got a settlement in short order. But no, we had the second vote.

What was the next step of this government? They said, "We are going to bring in the ultimate mediator, that well-known mediator from Brampton, the Honourable William G. Davis." I can just imagine what kind of tough, hard-hitting mediation there must have been on Monday of this week. It lasted all of two hours. Most of the time probably was spent in asking, "Cream or sugar for your coffee?" In essence, all the Premier was trying to do was lay the political groundwork for the kind of grandstanding that has gone on since.

Here we are, 13 days away from a strike—if my numbers are accurate; it may be 14—two more days after that away from the beginning of the papal visit, and the government of the day is saying, "There is just no hope they can settle." I believe, and I say so with some reluctance, that the papal visit is of crucial importance to a great number of the citizens of this community and to a great number of citizens of my community.

I say with some regret that I reach a different conclusion on how to deal with this legislation than the New Democratic Party does. With my years in Windsor, a very well-organized labour city where we have a lot of collective agreements negotiated, and with what I have seen over the years of the way the pressure builds on both the employer and employee in the waning hours and the way mediators in a sense can wear down the opposition between the two and bring them together, it seems to me with 13 days left we should have spent about 11 or 12 of them trying to get the agreement that was still within reach.

The Minister of Labour, if necessary, should have gone to the hotel room himself. But at least the mediator should have gone into the hotel room and said to the two sides: "This is intolerable. You do not want a strike. The workers do not want a strike. The employer does

not want a strike. The public certainly does not want a strike."

I am sure, as my friend the member for York South (Mr. Rae) said, 99.98 per cent of them do not want a strike. "You are so close. Now get in there and use your imagination. Come up with something." Obviously, there was little they needed to come up with. Yet the government said: "No. It would look like we were being decisive; it would give the illusion of decisiveness if we called the Legislature back five days before a federal election."

I do not mind staying here. My friend in the NDP said we want to trap them in Toronto. Frankly, I have better things to do with my time. We are going to re-elect three Liberals in Windsor, and I have better things to do just making sure we do that. I am sure we all want to be out working for our favourite candidate or candidates.

Mr. McClellan: For the party of your choice.

4:50 p.m.

Mr. Wrye: For the party of our choice. It is not a matter of us wanting to keep anyone here. All of us, being political animals, would like to be out on the campaign trail. But for this government, it served its interests in two ways. They must be getting a little worried over there. They can help buttress Mulroney by showing a little decisiveness. Of course, Decima Research must have done some instant polling as to what the reaction would be if we came back and got tough with the drivers. It became more important to get the Tory election campaign well under way than it did to ensure we made as much effort as we could to ensure that, even if this bill had to come in, every avenue of collective bargaining was explored.

Thirteen days before the strike deadline and 15 days before the papal visit is to begin, we have decided to explore the collective bargaining procedure no longer. The minister explains it away by saying, "An impasse has been reached." This is not the first dispute, and every member knows it. Impasses are reached, and later we can move them off dead centre. They may well be on dead centre right now. They have been put on dead centre by the silly attitude of this Minister of Labour in suggesting and then conducting a second vote on a strike, rather than keeping the momentum going.

In conclusion, I want to say I will vote for this piece of legislation with a great deal of reluctance. Given, in a sense, almost the emergency nature, because it is a very positive emergency—this papal visit is a very important occasion with

estimates of up to 500,000 people who will have to be moved through the metropolitan area to go to something which for many of them will be the most important event of this year, this decade and, for some, of their lives, I do not know that we can deny them that opportunity. I do not know that it can be denied to the people of this community, the people of my community and all those hundreds of thousands of people who look forward with such anticipation to the papal visit.

I do this with reluctance because I do not think this bill was necessary. What was necessary was for us to have a government that would handle these disputes properly and begin to think of people, be they those going to the visit, be they the Roman Catholic clergy who have organized the visit so well, or be they the employees of the Amalgamated Transit Union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees who have bargained in good faith and who had the right to expect this government would have allowed them at least to bargain right up to the last minute.

If it was the will of this government to deny them the right to strike to preserve the papal visit, that is one thing, but what we have here is political grandstanding of the most cynical kind, led by the Premier with his chief lieutenant, the Minister of Labour. The government has really shown today that its main object is re-election. Its object is certainly not the preservation and expansion of the collective bargaining process.

Mr. McClellan: Mr. Speaker, I do not want to take an inordinate amount of time in this debate. I know other members want to participate in it.

I want to try to focus for a moment or two on a pretty simple feature of this travesty that is taking place in the Legislature today. I will be speaking as strongly as I can against Bill 125. I will be asking people in the governing party and those to my right in the Liberal Party to think again about what they are doing in supporting this legislation.

The minister, in that long and flowery 16-page statement, made one passing reference to the central event that is preoccupying us this afternoon. He referred to "an historic event of deep spiritual significance." If I am not mistaken, that was the only reference in the entire document, although I do not have it with me. I believe that six-word subordinate clause was the only reference in that 16-page statement to the reason we are here this afternoon, namely, that on September 12 the Holy Father will be visiting Ontario.

We are being called back into session to end a strike which has not begun, to take away the bargaining rights of workers who are in the conciliation and mediation stage of industrial relations. We are being called back here to strip the democratic rights of working men and women in, as I understand it, three different union locals, and for what end? To accommodate the visit of His Holiness the Pope.

It seems to me there is a very profound confusion of ends and means here about which I want to ask people to think seriously. I am quite comfortable in talking about this as an aspect of the Holy Father's visit. As a member of the Catholic community myself I do not have any queasiness or hesitation in discussing this issue from that perspective.

It has been suggested in some of the media that some of us—I think I was named—are somehow fearful of the Catholic community because of the stand we are taking on this visit on the eve of the Holy Father's arrival in Ontario. I am not afraid of my brothers and sisters in my own community. I do not feel some kind of compulsion to distort myself in order to try to curry favour with my own community.

I feel very comfortable about the way in which I approach my community. I mean this quite sincerely. I do not have a shred of fear or hesitation and make no apology to anyone about the position I am taking with respect to what the minister calls "an historical event of deep spiritual significance."

Let us not forget that what is happening on September 12 is not a secular event. It is not part of the bicentennial celebrations of the Progressive Conservative Party, thank you very much. It is not something that is being organized by the government of Canada or the province of Ontario. It is not a secular event.

It is not a political event, although it is hard to remember that on an occasion like this. It is a religious event being organized by a religious community for its own religious purposes. I think it is deplorable that the government of this province has chosen to intrude itself into this religious event in a very destructive way.

As I said, Bill 125 is a confusion of ends and means. For the purpose of accommodating a religious celebration, the government is engaged in an action which is wrong and indefensible on a number of counts.

First, it has unleashed a torrent of anti-union sentiment among the public. As part of Bill 125 there has been a process at work which has involved stirring up public opinion against the

rights of workers to exercise free collective bargaining and to withdraw their labour voluntarily in support of an effort to improve their wages and working conditions.

I must say, and I have said it before publicly, I was profoundly appalled that a spokesman from the chancery office, and I am referring to Mr. Wimbs, spoke and used the rhetoric of "the workers at the TTC holding the Pope up to ransom." What he meant by that phrase was that they were exercising their legal, democratic, constitutional right to free collective bargaining and to withdraw their labour in support of their wage demands. It has nothing to do with holding anybody up to ransom and it is highly regrettable that kind of charged rhetoric has intruded into this issue.

5 p.m.

We have seen articles in the media and editorials in the *Toronto Sun*. We have all heard, I am sure, comments such as, "They should be glad they have got jobs at all with all the people out of work." We have all heard these kinds of comments and we have been talking to people about it. The feelings that have been whipped up are that workers ought to know when to keep their place; they are so lucky to have a job; they should not have the audacity to try to bargain to improve their wages and working conditions, and they should shut up and be thankful they are not on the bread line.

Is that the level to which labour relations in this province have sunk? How intolerable it is that the occasion of the papal visit is being used by some people to stir up these kinds of feelings. How incompatible it is with the "historical event of deep spiritual significance" to turn it into an opportunity to whip up anti-union and anti-worker sentiment across this province. That is precisely what has happened and I deplore that.

Second, of course—and I have already alluded to this—is the fact that it strips workers of their constitutional and democratic rights to free collective bargaining. How ironic it is that this is being done on the occasion of the visit to this country of a Pope who has issued the strongest statement in the history of the church about the rights of working people to form free trade unions and to exercise their rights to free collective bargaining, including the right to strike. No other Pope, I believe, has issued such a strong statement in the form of an encyclical about the rights of workers to exercise their right to strike. How do we honour his visit to Ontario? By crushing these rights, by stamping them out,

by snuffing them out in the name of some nonsense about an endangered public safety.

Third, my leader referred to the fact that this historic event is being used by some in this community to turn sections of the working community against each other—those who live in Ontario Housing turned against those who work for the Toronto Transit Commission; those who have jobs turned against those who do not have jobs and that kind of poisoning of community relationships being done in the name of what—of public safety in honour of the occasion of the Holy Father's visit? What an edifying spectacle this is, that these kinds of destructive and confrontational and negative attitudes, this systematic fostering of bad will between different members of the community is taking place as part of the preparations for a papal visit.

We should be ashamed that this is happening in our community. We should have done everything possible to make sure that a settlement was achieved as a result of collective bargaining, rather than through this kind of draconian, arbitrary, unfair and undemocratic imposition of the sanction of state against the workers. Let us not kid ourselves. If we look at the penalty sections of Bill 125, all the coercive powers of the state are employed against the TTC workers, including daily fines of \$1,000 per individual and daily fines of \$10,000 against the corporation and trade union if they violate the law, which I assume the government wants to see passed some time today.

Finally, the bill is wrong because, as has been pointed out so ably by my leader, it destroys independent-interest arbitration in this province. So we say to workers in the public sector who are deemed to be working in essential services that they cannot have the right to strike because they are essential-service workers. Instead, we will give them not an independent arbitration but a kind of phoney charade in which the government sets the parameters before the arbitration even begins, which independent and well-respected arbitrators are in fact publicly boycotting, so that we are left with a totally arbitrary, unilaterally imposed system of settlements emanating from the Premier's own office and imposed on contract disputes all across the province.

It is, as I said, a real confusion of ends and means. Those of the members who support this bill will have to do so on the basis that they believe the end justifies the means, that the end of convenience during the papal visit justifies what I regard as thoroughly disreputable means of

achieving that end, and they will have to live with the consequences of that.

To go back to the first point I made, I do not have the slightest qualm, not the slightest twinge of apprehension at facing the Catholic community or anybody in the community and at saying straightforwardly why I have opposed Bill 125.

I am opposing Bill 125 because I am as committed as anybody in this room to a successful papal visit. Every one of the people in this assembly knows the key to the success of the papal visit, from a transportation perspective, depends on securing the voluntary co-operation of almost the entire fleet of TTC drivers working overtime during the whole of the papal visit to provide effective public transportation. If that voluntary effort is not successful, there are going to be serious problems. Everybody knows that.

At the same time as the government says it is expecting this amazing manifestation of goodwill on the part of the transit workers themselves, in order to provide an essential service to the people who will be attending the papal visit, it is treating these workers with the most fundamental bad faith, the most fundamental ill will.

I remain absolutely mystified as to why the government has chosen to take that approach. I repeat what my leader said: We are absolutely convinced that the parties were not far apart at the bargaining table. This is manifested in public statements that were made by workers in the media, by the closeness of the vote and by the fact that the membership of the union gave a clear signal to the executive to go back to the bargaining table. Management said: "No, the guideline is five per cent and five per cent it will be. Period. Final."

The government said nothing. The government did not offer to lift the guideline restrictions of Bill 111. The government did not offer to make a gesture of goodwill to the transit workers and to management and say, "Go back and see what it takes to get a settlement and tell us what you need from us to get a settlement and to ensure the success of this extraordinary event taking place on September 12."

The government did not do that. It simply relied on the coercive power of the state to strip the workers of their rights and to force them back to work, and now it will expect, as I said, some extraordinary degree of goodwill on the part of those same transit workers to make the visit a success.

5:10 p.m.

I think there is still time—I believe this very deeply—to pull back from this foolish course, this destructive course, this negative course, this bitter course. There is still time to reach out in a spirit of goodwill and generosity, which surely this occasion demands. I believe there is still time for evidence of goodwill on the part of this government, for evidence of generosity of spirit. And if that were forthcoming, both parties could go back to the bargaining table, both parties could hammer out an agreement and the government could do whatever is necessary to get a negotiated settlement and, instead of the divisive bitterness this bill will leave as its legacy, we could proceed with the historic events of September in a spirit of genuine goodwill and reconciliation.

I fear that will not happen, but I very much hope that, despite the passage of Bill 125, a spirit of goodwill and reconciliation will emerge so that people can make the effort of will that will be required to transcend the bitterness that this government and this Legislature will create if Bill 125 is passed. I hope the voluntary effort that will be required in September will take place.

I tell the government and my friends in the Liberal Party, that is a gamble I am not prepared to take. It is a risk I am not prepared to take when a sensible path is open to us. There are more than two full weeks of time available to us. As my leader said, there is a large window, a big opportunity, and an opportunity for some breadth of vision and real statesmanship from the leaders of the government. There is an opportunity to pull this community together and to bind up wounds, not to rub raw the sores of discontent, which is what this bill will do.

How inappropriate and wrong it is to stir up these feelings in the name of the convenience of the Holy Father's visit. That is fundamentally wrong. I suspect that some members of the government and some members of the Liberal Party realize that. I think we have time over the course of this debate to come up with a better solution than is contained in Bill 125. I very much hope we have the wit to do it.

Mr. Haggerty: Mr. Speaker, I want to address myself to Bill 125, An Act respecting Labour Disputes between Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines, Limited and GO Transit Locals 113 and 1587, Amalgamated Transit Union, Lodge 235, International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local No. 2.

I was interested in the explanatory note. I have a great deal of difficulty supporting this type of legislation. It says, "Part I of the bill provides for the compulsory arbitration of the labour disputes involving the Toronto Transit Commission, Gray Coach Lines, Limited and the unions representing their employees, to ensure continuity of operations. Part II ensures that the existing understanding regarding GO Transit's takeover of certain Gray Coach Lines routes will be incorporated into the collective agreement between GO Transit and the union representing its employees."

If I can have the attention of the Minister of Labour, I want to make a few comments on this area. He is well aware of the present suggestion to transfer a certain number of bus drivers to the GO Transit system. I suppose there will be a division between the different unions in this area. I hope that when the transition occurs in this area they will have the same guarantee under this union collective agreement. I had some reservations that if they were transferred to the GO Transit system, they might not have that collective bargaining unit with them. It indicates that here and I hope it continues.

I look at the words "compulsory arbitration." I can recall back in 1974, and the Deputy Premier (Mr. Welch) can recall, that the Legislature was involved in a strike settlement at that time. We are all concerned about public safety and the impact on the community that a strike of this nature would have. We are looking at one of the largest transportation systems in North America, one that covers the Metropolitan Toronto area and outlying areas such as Niagara Falls and Buffalo.

We are concerned about the public impact of a lengthy strike. We saw the one of 35 or 45 days and saw the one of four days in 1978 that the Legislature was involved in. In his opening statement the minister said the reason the bill was introduced this afternoon was because of an impasse at the bargaining table. As long as government is called to enact legislation to put people back to work or to stop a strike, then this government and Legislature will be involved all the time. Management or even labour can take the position they can bargain hard at the bargaining table because they have nothing to worry about. They would realize they could always look to the Legislature to get the employees back to work.

I think that is a wrong course for any government to take. Since the first strike, I have introduced a private member's bill that is similar

to, but not as harsh as, what the minister has here. I introduced it again this year—Bill 97, An Act to amend the Labour Relations Act. The explanatory note says: “The purpose of this bill is to provide a mechanism whereby the Lieutenant Governor in Council can order a 60-day suspension of a strike or lockout and order a return to work where the strike or lockout constitutes an immediate and serious danger to life, health and safety or seriously disrupts the economy of the province in any area of the province.”

The minister has said that in his opening statement. I thought for a minute he was going to copy this bill. I think it is a good piece of legislation. It has worked very well in the United States, particularly in their transportation system. The government can always invoke such a measure to stop something like what is occurring today.

My bill provided that the Minister of Labour must appoint a conciliation officer—not an arbitrator but a conciliation officer. Once an arbitrator steps into the negotiation picture the free collective bargaining process disappears. He considers the facts and decides which area should be settled or he gives a statement to the government saying the parties must follow a certain path. The arbitrator removes the process of free collective bargaining.

My explanatory note states further: “The conciliation officer, where an order respecting a strike or lockout has been made, may subsequently appoint a conciliation board where the efforts of the conciliation officer to effect a collective agreement are unsuccessful. If the conciliation efforts are unsuccessful, the strike or the lockout may be resumed without a further strike vote. An order made under this bill would be as enforceable as an order from the Supreme Court.”

That is very simple legislation. It does not remove the right to strike. The free collective bargaining process still remains. I thought this government always looked to the free collective bargaining process, but on three occasions here, relating to the TTC, it has removed it.

We have seen what happens in arbitration with the police when they negotiated for a settlement. We have also seen it with the professional firefighters, who have been accustomed to arbitration. An arbitrator looks at the question and decides both these are essential services.

Has this government looked at whether transit systems, particularly in Toronto, should be considered essential services? I cannot recall any place other than Toronto where the government

has brought in legislation related to a transit strike or lockout. We are only concerned about Metropolitan Toronto, not the outlying areas that still encounter difficulties in transportation which cause hardships to the community.

The leader of the NDP mentioned the different strikes that have been lengthy. I am concerned about one he talked about. I do not want to repeat what he said about the strike at Horton CBI. It is going into its ninth month and if some action is not taken by this government or the Ministry of Labour that industry no doubt will disappear from the town of Fort Erie. All the staff and blue collar workers will disappear from that community if some action is not taken by the government.

5:20 p.m.

If the minister had a piece of legislation similar to one I have suggested, we could have those persons back at the bargaining table. The union has not requested anything out of the ordinary in that strike at Horton or even with the TTC. The majority of TTC employees have accepted the five per cent. That is in line with government restraint policy.

When we look at the government restraint policy, we see the guideline of five per cent that was introduced by this government and supported by a great many members of this Legislature. Then we see the Ontario Hydro rate increase that has been suggested, 10.3 per cent; that happens year after year with Hydro. There is also the ad valorem tax on gasoline, which has increased by about 100 per cent in a matter of three and a half years. Is that within the provincial guideline of five per cent? The good Lord knows what is going to happen if the Tories are elected federally. Our energy costs are perhaps going to go sky high.

I do not know what the Tories are going to come in with next year as it relates to the restraint program. But I hope the restraint program applies to the government, whatever government is placed there on September 4. There are other methods and alternatives to get around bringing in legislation every time.

Nobody thinks about the garbage strike in Etobicoke, which is now in its fifth week. They say there is no health problem there, but with the pesticides they are using there now and the heavy fall rains coming, we may have environmental problems if there are not some measures to get the parties back to the bargaining table. I suppose they are looking at the same thing and saying, “If it continues this way, we can always look to the Legislature to bail us out if there is an impasse.”

That is one of the problems when the government introduces a bill of this nature. Large unions no doubt will come in and say, "We will drive a hard bargain." Management that has to deal with it at the bargaining table will say, "We are not in any hurry to settle it, because if it gets out of hand we can always look to the Legislature to bail us out."

There should be some preventive measures. My private member's bill, Bill 97, provides the government with the leeway to prevent a strike. As I said, it has worked very successfully in the United States. As much as we are loath to look to our neighbours to the south, sometimes they have pretty good legislation. In fact, the United Steelworkers of America brought much of the US legislation here, bringing about some good labour relations in Ontario. That was not done without some difficulties and some struggle, but eventually some good legislation came forward.

If the government settles the dispute, it should not be based on the religious factor. I know the other two times, in 1974 and 1978, it was not based upon a religious factor. It was based upon the transportation needs of the general public in and around Toronto and of the school students who use the transportation system here in Ontario. The religious thing should be left out of the picture.

There is a need out there that has to be resolved. I do not like to use the words "religious matters" in the House, because it would have happened and the government would have brought in a bill regardless. I cannot be critical of the government in that area. Some members over there may have a conscience and may have to answer to St. Peter up there at the Pearly Gates. They may think this is the right way to go; I do not know.

There are other alternatives. The minister is going to have to come up with some other labour legislation and take another look at the bill I have introduced. It is a good piece of legislation. I introduced it for a reason. I could see these things coming forward year after year. This Legislature should not be a place where we have to settle some major strikes or possible major strikes in Ontario. The government, through the Lieutenant Governor, can invoke a certain section of the Labour Relations Act to open some avenues. When an impasse exists, sometimes we have to take this approach to end a dispute or to stop a strike or a lockout. This is an area the government should be looking at.

I support the principle of the bill with some reluctance. I do not see any end to it unless the

government brings in some new, progressive legislation in this area. I was just thinking it has been about 40 years—41 years, I guess it is now—and the government should be considering this type of legislation.

Mr. Renwick: Mr. Speaker, I wish to speak for a few minutes on Bill 125, which has been introduced before us today.

As the minister is aware, I have been engaged all summer with the concern that the labour laws of this province and the way in which this government deals with matters related to labour relations are totally ineffective for the purposes of protecting working people. I have gone through it, from May 29 until early in August, watching the laws of this province and the federal laws come into conflict with private interests in a company in my riding which had been in existence for some 99 years, has now run away and 155 jobs are lost.

All the meetings and all the participation by all the people involved could not prevent it for one single moment. Finally the gun was put to the head of the union to agree to certain conditions under which the plant would run away, to protect what? The unpaid wages amounting to some \$76,000 and some additional moneys with respect to vacations with pay.

No reference was made to the fact that their severance pay and termination pay was wiped out entirely, that the laws of the province are totally ineffective in protecting workers in this society and that one who participates in the meetings involved simply is part of the game that is played to soften the blow until the public interest disappears entirely and people are laid off.

Talking about people, the main part of that work force was made up of people who had come recently to this country. One of the men on the bargaining committee was from Guyana. He had arrived here in 1972 and had not worked anywhere else. He has no job now. Another person on the bargaining committee was from Jamaica. He had worked in that plant for a considerable period of time and has no job. Another person was from Estonia. He had worked in that plant for a long time and has no job.

The combination of the relationships of private interests which can subvert the laws of this province with respect to labour relations and get no help from the federal government in establishing any priority with respect to wages in bankruptcy and receivership matters is something I deplore, but nothing is being done about

it. There are constant discussions, constant talk; nothing ever happens.

It is an anomaly in the law of this province that a worker's vacation pay is better protected than his unpaid wages. It is quite unbelievable that the work that has been done does not have the kind of protection that vacation pay has. Until something is done about what is talked about as the superpriority of workers' earned money, earned termination pay, earned severance pay and earned vacation pay and other benefits, I do not have a great deal of confidence in this government when it brings in a bill such as Bill 125 today.

I want to say three or four things in the course of the comments I want to make about this bill. First of all, I want to talk about Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union. I want the people of the assembly to understand that it happens to be one of the finest work forces in Metropolitan Toronto.

I use the transit system, and I have had in my riding, as occasion permits, during election time, the support of members of Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union and have had to some extent, to the extent that they are able to do so, some financial assistance from that union. I hope it is because they understand that I stand for the concerns of that union.

5:30 p.m.

Day in and day out, as I ride the transit system, both the subway system and the streetcar system in the city of Toronto in the area I represent and in the area in which I live, I have seen that the public relations of that work force are very good. The people who use that service do not look down upon them and are not prepared to say that this group of people is holding us up to some kind of ransom. That is not so. The relationship of that work force with the community is much more firmly grounded than the kind of rhetoric the Minister of Labour interposed in his statement earlier today.

I want to say to you, Mr. Speaker, to the Minister of Labour and to the Deputy Premier—I wish the Premier and the Treasurer were here—that if they think Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Union workers was not going to provide any kind of essential, necessary service for those in need of it, then they do not understand the kind of spirit that exists in that local. Had there been any need to provide protection for life in the city of Toronto and in Metropolitan Toronto, it would have been provided. I want members to understand that.

Every time a strike is mooted in any part of the service in the province where somebody wants to say, "Let us undermine it," he immediately talks as though the members of the work force are somehow hostile to society. They are just as aware of what the needs might be, not of people who would be inconvenienced, which is what we are basically talking about, but where there is any question of danger to life, health or safety, in which case that interim service would be provided by arrangement between the Toronto Transit Commission and that union.

I want to set that question very clearly before us, because if weasel words were ever used in a bill that was presented to this assembly, it is in the preamble to this bill. I must say that we get preambles only to bills related to labour relations; we do not generally get them in any other kind of bill. The preamble speaks of "rendering travel difficult"—it goes without saying; of course it is inconvenient—and "endangering the public safety."

I want to say to the government that this is an insult to working people in the kinds of unions that are in the position of the transit workers, the hospital workers or any of the sectors that provide public service. I do not know what game is being played; I do not know why the government plays games with this kind of language in bills such as this. Then, having thrown that in, it carries on and says, "whereas the public interest and welfare require that means be provided to avert the strikes...."

Nobody on the government benches has stood in his place to say; I have read in the press that the Premier is not saying this is an essential service. If that is the government's position, let it say so and let us debate that issue. Let us find out what the parameters of essential services are. This is not what they are talking about, because this bill will disappear from the statute books when all of its terms have been provided, and it so provides in the bill.

I am simply saying to the Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Premier, that I do not accept this kind of weasel language. Either stand up and say the Metropolitan Toronto transit system is an essential service so we can debate and discuss it or stop the kind of nonsense that appears in Bill 125.

The next thing I want to say is that regardless of what the Minister of Labour may say or what semantic language the Premier may use in discussions with the press or what may have taken place in the discussions with the head of the union of Local 113 and the chairman of the

commission when they met, regardless of any of that kind of situation, the government of Ontario is a party to the negotiations. It did not move when it had the opportunity to move to make this bill entirely unnecessary.

Why do I say that? Because the Toronto Transit Commission, which is the principal employer that is bargaining, is a commission appointed by the Metropolitan Toronto council. It has never referred any of the matters related to this dispute to the Metropolitan Toronto council. It has simply bypassed the Metropolitan Toronto council. It has not gone to that council and said: "Look, we have this kind of problem. What are we going to do?" With the impending visit of His Holiness the Pope to Toronto, with the kind of ongoing problem involved in the transit service and the quality of the transit service, they simply ignored Metropolitan Toronto council.

They did not even have a head of council to go to, although he is a member of the Toronto Transit Commission, as I understand it. With great respect, Chairman Godfrey is a dead-duck chairman. The potential holder of that office is up to his hips in garbage in Etobicoke. So there is nobody at the Metropolitan Toronto level with whom they could deal. There is nobody at the Metropolitan Toronto council to say, "What are you going to do?"

Julian Porter, the chairman of the commission, and Lyons, the vice-chairman, being good Tories and both being lawyers, know where the real power is and they simply said, "It is the government of Ontario."

From my point of view, the bargainer at the table is sitting in this assembly today in the person of the Deputy Premier, in the absence of the Premier. There is nothing left for the Minister of Labour to do. I give him credit. He has exhausted all he can do; he could not do anything more about it. But the Deputy Premier, the Premier and the Treasurer could easily have provided the kind of leeway that would have permitted a negotiated settlement in a situation that had reached a particular point where the possibility of a settlement depended on the leadership to be provided by this government and they failed to do it.

My leader has referred to it. Bill 111 is here. The government could easily have indicated in the dying days of Bill 111, chapter 70 of the statutes of 1983: "In the negotiations taking place, that bill no longer applies to what you are doing. Go into the room, sit down, negotiate. The public interest in the papal visit is such that you are not to come out of that room without an

agreement." It could have sent the Deputy Premier into that meeting as a prime negotiator in the game that was being played to bring about a settlement.

I know the Deputy Premier. I know very well that with the backing of the Treasurer and the Premier himself there would have been a settlement and all this nonsense we are engaged in here would not be taking place today.

5:40 p.m.

Mr. Martel: But no politics for the Tories.

Mr. Renwick: I can be on politics at three levels. I want to leave aside the cynicism that comes across in the tactics related to this and to try to deal with what I see as the principal parts of the political context to it.

I am engaged, as all of us are, in the federal election campaign in the area I represent. I really do not care about the cynicism of this government. I have been around long enough to understand that cynicism and to know that on November 8 or thereabouts there probably will be an election. It is at least 50-50 that there will be an election on November 22. The politics are all there. I have been through it all.

I want to ask the Deputy Premier, is the government prepared to say now that, when this bill is passed, it will still go to the table? There is nothing in the bill that prevents it from going to the table. If it goes to the table, matters that are reached in agreement at the table are taken out of the hands of the arbitrators. It is still possible, even at this late date on the road the government is determined to pursue, for the real bargainers to go to the table to negotiate a settlement that will provide the result everyone in this chamber knows has to come about. It can do it. If it not prepared to do it, I think it has no real sense of the importance of the issue before us.

On an occasion such as this, I am not one to talk about constitutional matters. The reason, of course, is that long before any case fought on the basis of the constitutionality of this bill is before the courts the matter of the papal visit will be over. It would be a useless exercise, but that does not alter the facts. I know the Attorney General is never here when there is a constitutional matter. He relies on the courts to overturn his constitutional positions rather than listening to the arguments made here indicating the unconstitutionality of what is taking place.

The law of the province at the present time recognizes freedom of association. Three of the judges of the Supreme Court of Ontario did so. Some people may say this is not a particularly appropriate time to talk about the fundamentals

of what is involved in this, but I want to quote from each of the three judges's unanimous decision in a matter related to the meaning and content of freedom of association, which has been appealed by the Attorney General and is now in the hands of the Ontario Court of Appeal for decision in the face of the judgement of the three judges.

Mr. Justice Smith said this: "It follows, and it is trite to say it, I suppose, that the freedom to associate carries with it the freedom to meet to pursue the lawful objects and activities essential to the association's purposes, being in this instance the wellbeing, economic and otherwise, of its members. The freedom to associate as used in the charter, not being on its face a limited one, includes the freedom to organize, to bargain collectively and as a necessary corollary to strike."

Mr. Justice Galligan said: "The purpose of an association of workers in a union is clear. It is to advance their common interests. If they are not free to take such lawful steps that they see as reasonable to advance those interests, including bargaining and striking, then as a practical matter their association is a barren and useless thing. I cannot imagine that the charter was ever intended to guarantee the freedom of association without also guaranteeing the freedom to do that for which the association is intended. I have no hesitation in concluding that in guaranteeing workers' freedom of association, the charter also guarantees at the very least their freedom to organize, to choose their own union, to bargain and to strike."

Mr. Justice O'Leary said: "The right to organize and bargain collectively is only an illusion if the right to strike does not go with it. The main reason that the right to organize and bargain collectively is assured employees is that they may effectively bargain with their employer. To take away an employee's ability to strike so seriously detracts from the benefits of the right to organize and bargain collectively as to make those rights virtually meaningless. If the right to organize and bargain collectively is to have significant value, then the right to strike must also be a right included in the expression 'freedom of association,' and I conclude that it is."

What could be more succinct and what could be more straight forward than the statement of three of the judges of the Supreme Court of Ontario, as they understand it, sitting as a Divisional Court in a matter related to the constitutionality of a bill which the Attorney

General opposed going before that court and which he immediately appealed?

Let me perhaps try to set in its place, not the argument about constitutionality but what it is all about, because somehow or other the members of Local 113 are being isolated from the community in which they live, move and have their being, their work, their families, their lives and everything else, as though they are doing something wrong, as though they are doing something which is subversive, as though they should not be doing what they are doing.

Let me just, if I may, read a quotation Mr. Justice O'Leary used in his part of his comments in respect of the importance of freedom of association—not because it is in the charter; it is in the charter because of its importance—and that is a quotation he used for the rationale for freedom of association.

The rationale for freedom of association for trade union purposes and its relation to fundamental human rights has been expressed by N. C. W. Jenks in *Human Rights and International Labour Standards*, published by Stevens and Sons Ltd., 1960, page 49. This is the quotation he uses as the rationale because of the aptness of what he had to say.

"In an age of interdependence in large-scale organizations in which the individual counts for so little, unless he acts in co-operation with his fellows, freedom of association has become the cornerstone of civil liberties and social and economic rights alike. It has long been the bulwark of religious freedom and political liberty. It has increasingly become a necessary condition of economic and social freedom for the ordinary citizen.

"Freedom of association by highly organized and powerful economic interests calls for a counterpart in strong leadership in the public interest by the state, but the strong leadership by the state without the counterpart of such freedom of association can be dangerous for political as well as for economic and social freedom."

It seemed appropriate to me to put the rationale of what we are talking about with respect to the Constitution of the country, with respect to the legality of what the members of Local 113 were contemplating and what in the ordinary course would have taken place to require continuing and ongoing negotiations during the interval which was available if the proper parties were at the table, namely, the government of Ontario.

5:50 p.m.

I perhaps want to say to the government, as my leader has said in the comments he made in

opening, that on the road it has gone in this matter, the way in which it has handled it, I doubt it has the capacity to take any of the suggestions which are made from this party with respect to how to deal with the issue that is before us. But I am going to suggest to the government the possibility that it consider that Bill 111 has run its course; that Bill 111, chapter 70, An Act to provide for the Review of Prices and Compensation in the Public Sector and for an orderly Transition to the Resumption of full Collective Bargaining, has run its course and should be off the statute books.

The government has the power here already, through the Lieutenant Governor in Council, which in my understanding is the government of Ontario, to make regulations. Under clause 11(1)(a) of that bill, "The Lieutenant Governor in Council may make regulations, (a) terminating in whole or in part the application of this act to a group compensation plan to which this act applies where there exist special circumstances that justify such termination in keeping with the spirit and intent of this act."

The government has the opportunity to pass the regulations that will free the arbitrator in a particular situation from dealing with this matter, subject to the intolerable restriction imposed on that arbitrator by this bill.

The Minister of Labour finally, after how many tries?—a half dozen questions today—admitted very clearly that subsection 10(1) of Bill 111 applies to the arbitration that is going to take place. This subsection says, "Every act or regulation that requires or permits an issue that arises in collective bargaining by or on behalf of employees to whom this part applies to be submitted to or determined by arbitration shall be deemed to include a provision that the arbitrator shall consider the employer's ability to pay in the light of existing provincial fiscal policy."

It is right in the government's court; it can do it. When the bill is put into committee, we intend to move an amendment—we have provided it to the government and to the opposition—to make that point abundantly and perfectly clear by providing for an amendment to section 6 of the bill that would specifically state that part I of the Public Sector Prices and Compensation Review Act, 1983, does not apply to the employees mentioned in subsection 2(1) or to their group compensation plans as defined in that act.

The government has two alternatives in front of it. Either it can say today it will accept the amendment or will pass the regulation that will free the arbitrator from this intolerable restriction

on his function as an arbitrator of this dispute, or the Deputy Premier, on behalf of the government, can go to the bargaining table himself, sit down with the officers and the bargaining committee of Local 113 and the other locals of the smaller representation in the work force at the Toronto Transit Commission and bargain the gap that is there.

He can bargain, not an impasse, which is the word used, as though there is some chasm between the two parties that no one can jump, that cannot be bridged and that either party trying to reach out to the hand of the other party to reach an agreement is going to fall into some abysmal pit. That is not what is involved. That is the restriction; that restriction to which I referred is what is preventing a negotiated settlement. It is that clear; it is that simple.

The obligation is the the government's; the responsibility is there. Either it does it itself or it announces publicly that the arbitrator will be freed from that restriction, which has prevented the agreement being reached that was necessary to avoid this kind of fiasco we are going through. It is very simple and very easy and it could be done. I know very well it could be done and the Deputy Premier knows very well it could be done.

I will wait until my friend the member for Niagara Falls (Mr. Kerrio) has finished his discussion with the Deputy Premier. At the moment when I am getting to my peroration, I can always count on the member for Niagara Falls going over and engaging the minister to whom I am addressing my remarks in some kind of conversation. It never, ever fails.

All I want to say to the Deputy Premier, and I am glad of the respite because I may say I was getting somewhat wound up in it, is that he wants the papal visit to be a success. I want it to be a success. I am not a member of the community of the Roman Catholic Church. Everyone in the province wants the visit of His Holiness to be a success. Everyone in Metro wants it to be a success. In the kind of society we are talking about, the Deputy Premier wants the voluntary, overtime work of the members of Local 113 of the Amalgamated Transit Workers.

He can have that co-operation and he can have it on very simple terms, namely, if the Deputy Premier, because I know the Premier would select him to do it, will go to the bargaining table tomorrow, remove the intolerable restriction of Bill 111, which is preventing the negotiation, and not come out of the room until there is an agreement or, in the alternative, accept the

amendment we will propose to make this obsolete Bill 111 not applicable to the arbitration which is going to take place under Bill 125.

It is clear, it is simple, it is direct, it is concise and it should appeal to the Deputy Premier. I know through him it will appeal to the Premier. Whether it will appeal to the Treasurer is another matter, but I happen to believe the power resides in those two seats. I do not have a seat chart, so I do not have the numbers of the seats, but the Premier—

Mr. T. P. Reid: One and two.

Mr. Renwick: Yes. The Premier and the Deputy Premier, with the assistance of the Minister of Labour and whatever other retinue of the public service is required to assist them, could settle this tomorrow if they wanted to do so. They would have the co-operation of the members of Local 113 to carry on as everyone wishes to carry on, to honour a most significant public occasion in Ontario, the visit of His Holiness the Pope.

The House recessed at 6 p.m.

APPENDIX

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS*

(120 members)

Fourth Session, 32nd Parliament

Lieutenant Governor: Hon. J. B. Aird, OC, QC

Speaker: Hon. John M. Turner

Clerk of the House: Roderick Lewis, QC

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| Allen, R. (Hamilton West NDP) | Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury PC) |
| Andrewes, Hon. P. W. , Minister of Energy
(Lincoln PC) | Grande, T. (Oakwood NDP) |
| Ashe, Hon. G. L. , Minister of Government
Services (Durham West PC) | Gregory, Hon. M. E. C. , Minister of Revenue
(Mississauga East PC) |
| Baetz, Hon. R. C. , Minister of Tourism and
Recreation (Ottawa West PC) | Grossman, Hon. L. S. , Treasurer of Ontario
and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St.
Patrick PC) |
| Barlow, W. W. (Cambridge PC) | Haggerty, R. (Erie L) |
| Bennett, Hon. C. F. , Minister of Municipal
Affairs and Housing (Ottawa South PC) | Harris, M. D. (Nipissing PC) |
| Bernier, Hon. L. , Minister of Northern
Affairs (Kenora PC) | Havrot, E. M. (Timiskaming PC) |
| Birch, M. (Scarborough East PC) | Henderson, L. C. (Lambton PC) |
| Bradley, J. J. (St. Catharines L) | Hennessy, M. (Fort William PC) |
| Brandt, Hon. A. S. , Minister of the Environ-
ment (Sarnia PC) | Hodgson, W. (York North PC) |
| Breaugh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP) | Johnson, J. M. (Wellington-Dufferin-Peel PC) |
| Breithaupt, J. R. (Kitchener L) | Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP) |
| Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP) | Jones, T., Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the
Committees of the Whole House (Mississauga
North PC) |
| Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP) | Kells, M. C. (Humber PC) |
| Conway, S. G. (Renfrew North L) | Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South PC) |
| Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP) | Kerr, G. A. (Burlington South PC) |
| Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman of the Commit-
tees of the Whole House (York Centre PC) | Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L) |
| Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East PC) | Kolyn, A. (Lakeshore PC) |
| Davis, Hon. W. G. , Premier (Brampton PC) | Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin PC) |
| Dean, Hon. G. H. , Provincial Secretary for
Social Development (Wentworth PC) | Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP) |
| Di Santo, O. (Downsview NDP) | Leluk, Hon. N. G. , Minister of Correctional
Services (York West PC) |
| Drea, Hon. F. , Minister of Community and
Social Services (Scarborough Centre PC) | Lupusella, A. (Dovercourt NDP) |
| Eakins, J. F. (Victoria-Haliburton L) | Mackenzie, R. W. (Hamilton East NDP) |
| Eaton, Hon. R. G. , Minister without Portfolio
(Middlesex PC) | MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East PC) |
| Edighoffer, H. A. (Perth L) | Mancini, R. (Essex South L) |
| Elgie, Hon. R. G. , Minister of Consumer and
Commercial Relations (York East PC) | Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP) |
| Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L) | McCaffrey, R. B. (Armourdale PC) |
| Epp, H. A. (Waterloo North L) | McCague, Hon. G. R. , Chairman, Manage-
ment Board of Cabinet (Dufferin-Simcoe PC) |
| Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound PC) | McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP) |
| Fish, Hon. S. A. , Minister of Citizenship and
Culture (St. George PC) | McEwen, J. E. (Frontenac-Addington PC) |
| Foulds, J. F. (Port Arthur NDP) | McGuigan, J. F. (Kent-Elgin L) |
| Gillies, P. A. (Brantford PC) | McKessock, R. (Grey L) |
| | McLean, A. K. (Simcoe East PC) |
| | McMurtry, Hon. R. R. , Attorney General
(Eglinton PC) |
| | McNeil, R. K. (Elgin PC) |
| | Miller, Hon. F. S. , Minister of Industry and
Trade (Muskoka PC) |
| | Miller, G. I. (Haldimand-Norfolk L) |

Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton PC)
 Newman, B. (Windsor-Walkerville L)
 Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of Health
 (Kingston and the Islands PC)
 O'Neil, H. P. (Quinte L)
 Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
 Philip, E. T. (Etobicoke NDP)
 Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North PC)
 Pollock, J. (Hastings-Peterborough PC)
Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural Resources
 (Cochrane South PC)
 Rae, R. K. (York South)
Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault
 Ste. Marie PC)
 Reed, J. A. (Halton-Burlington L)
 Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
 Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
 Riddell, J. K. (Huron-Middlesex L)
 Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere PC)
 Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights PC)
 Runciman, R. W. (Leeds PC)
 Ruprecht, T. (Parkdale L)
 Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
 Samis, G. R. (Cornwall NDP)
 Sargent, E. C. (Grey-Bruce L)
 Scrivener, M. (St. David PC)
 Sheppard, H. N. (Northumberland PC)
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea PC)
Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation
 and Communications (Oakville PC)
 Spensieri, M. A. (Yorkview L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education
 and Minister of Colleges and Universities
 (York Mills PC)
Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for
 Resources Development (Carleton-Grenville
 PC)
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York PC)
 Stokes, J. E. (Lake Nipigon NDP)
 Swart, M. L. (Welland-Thorold NDP)
 Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General (Simcoe
 Centre PC)
 Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox PC)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture
 and Food (Don Mills PC)
 Treleaven, R. L. (Oxford PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough
 PC)
 Van Horne, R. G. (London North L)
 Villeneuve, N. (Stormont, Dundas and Glen-
 garry PC)
Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for
 Justice (London South PC)

Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier and
 Minister responsible for Women's Issues
 (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovern-
 mental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
 Wildman, B. (Algoma NDP)
 Williams, J. R. (Oriole PC)
 Wiseman, D. J. (Lanark PC)
 Worton, H. (Wellington South L)
 Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)
 Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South PC)

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Davis, Hon. W. G., Premier and President of the
 Council
 Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier and Minister
 responsible for Women's Issues
 Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovern-
 mental Affairs
 Bernier, Hon. L., Minister of Northern Affairs
 Snow, Hon. J. W., Minister of Transportation
 and Communications
 Bennett, Hon. C. F., Minister of Municipal
 Affairs and Housing
 Miller, Hon. F. S., Minister of Industry and
 Trade
 Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture
 and Food
 Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education
 and Minister of Colleges and Universities
 McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General
 Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of Health
 Drea, Hon. F., Minister of Community and
 Social Services
 Grossman, Hon. L., Treasurer of Ontario and
 Minister of Economics
 McCague, Hon. G., Chairman of Management
 Board of Cabinet and Chairman of Cabinet
 Baetz, Hon. R. C., Minister of Tourism and
 Recreation
 Elgie, Hon. R. G., Minister of Consumer and
 Commercial Relations
 Walker, Hon. G. W., Provincial Secretary for
 Justice
 Gregory, Hon. M. E. C., Minister of Revenue
 Pope, Hon. A. W., Minister of Natural
 Resources
 Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional
 Services
 Ashe, Hon. G. L., Minister of Government
 Services
 Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour
 Sterling, Hon. N. W., Provincial Secretary for
 Resources Development

Taylor, Hon. G. W., Solicitor General
 Eaton, Hon. R. G., Minister without Portfolio
 Andrewes, Hon. P. W., Minister of Energy
 Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment
 Dean, Hon. G. H., Provincial Secretary for
 Social Development
 Fish, Hon. S. A., Minister of Citizenship and
 Culture

PARLIAMENTARY ASSISTANTS

Birch, M. (Scarborough East), assistant to the
 Premier
 Cureatz, S. L. (Durham East), assistant to the
 Solicitor General
 Eves, E. L. (Parry Sound), assistant to the
 Minister of Education and the Minister of
 Colleges and Universities
 Gillies, P. A. (Brantford), assistant to the
 Minister of Labour
 Gordon, J. K. (Sudbury), assistant to the
 Minister of Community and Social Services
 Harris, M. D. (Nipissing), assistant to the
 Minister of the Environment
 Hennessy, M. (Fort William), assistant to the
 Minister of Northern Affairs
 Hodgson, W. (York North), assistant to the
 Minister of Government Services
 Kells, M. C. (Humber), assistant to the Minister
 of Transportation and Communications
 Kennedy, R. D. (Mississauga South), assistant
 to the Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs
 Lane, J. G. (Algoma-Manitoulin), assistant to
 the Minister of Tourism and Recreation
 MacQuarrie, R. W. (Carleton East), assistant to
 the Attorney General
 McNeil, R. K. (Elgin), assistant to the Minister
 of Agriculture and Food
 Mitchell, R. C. (Carleton), assistant to the
 Minister of Health
 Piché, R. L. (Cochrane North), assistant to the
 Minister of Revenue
 Robinson, A. M. (Scarborough-Ellesmere),
 assistant to the Minister of Citizenship and
 Culture
 Rotenberg, D. (Wilson Heights), assistant to the
 Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
 Shymko, Y. R. (High Park-Swansea), assis-
 tant to the Provincial Secretary for Social
 Development
 Stevenson, K. R. (Durham-York), assistant to
 the Treasurer of Ontario and Minister of
 Economics
 Taylor, J. A. (Prince Edward-Lennox), assistant
 to the Minister of Industry and Trade
 Watson, A. N. (Chatham-Kent), assistant to the
 Minister of Energy

Williams, J. R. (Oriole), assistant to the Minister
 of Consumer and Commercial Relations
 Yakabuski, P. J. (Renfrew South), assistant to
 the Minister of Natural Resources

STANDING COMMITTEES

Administration of justice: chairman, Mr. Kolyn;
 vice-chairman, Mr. MacQuarrie; members,
 Messrs. Breithaupt, Cureatz, Eves, Mitchell,
 Renwick, Spensieri, Stevenson, Swart and
 Williams; clerk, F. Carrozza.

General government: chairman, Mr. McLean;
 vice-chairman, Mr. Harris; members, Messrs.
 Eakins, Foulds, Gillies, Gordon, Haggerty,
 Hennessy, Hodgson, McKessock, Piché and
 Samis; clerk, T. Decker.

Resources development: chairman, Mr. Barlow;
 vice-chairman, Mr. Villeneuve; members,
 Messrs. Havrot, Lane, Laughren, Lupusella,
 Mancini, McNeil, Riddell, Sweeney, Watson
 and Yakabuski; clerk, D. Arnott.

Social development: chairman, Mr. Kerr; vice-
 chairman, Mr. Kells; members, Messrs. Hender-
 son, R. F. Johnston, Mackenzie, McGuigan,
 Pollock, Robinson, Shymko, Wiseman and
 Wrye; clerk, L. Mellor.

Members' services: chairman, Mr. J. M. John-
 son; vice-chairman, Mr. Lane; members,
 Messrs. Charlton, Elston, Grande, Kennedy,
 G. I. Miller, Rotenberg, Runciman, Ruprecht,
 Shymko and Wiseman; clerk, A. Richardson.

Procedural affairs: chairman, Mr. Treleaven;
 vice-chairman, Mr. Watson; members, Messrs.
 Breaugh, Charlton, Cureatz, Edighoffer, Epp,
 Kells, Mancini, McNeil, Rotenberg and Villen-
 euve; clerk, S. Forsyth; assistant clerk, T.
 Decker.

Public accounts: chairman, Mr. T. P. Reid;
 vice-chairman, Mr. Eves; members, Messrs.
 Bradley, Havrot, Kennedy, Kolyn, Philip,
 Sargent, Mrs. Scrivener, Messrs. J. A. Taylor
 and Wildman; clerk, F. Carrozza.

Regulations and other statutory instruments:
 chairman, Mr. Sheppard; vice-chairman, Mr.
 Gillies; members, Messrs. Cousens, Di Santo,
 Hennessy, Hodgson, Kerrio, Piché, Robinson,
 Swart, Sweeney and Van Horne; clerk, A.
 Richardson.

SELECT COMMITTEE

Ombudsman: chairman, Mr. Runciman; mem-
 bers, Messrs. Breithaupt, Di Santo, Eakins,
 Hennessy, Hodgson, Lane, MacQuarrie,
 Mitchell, Philip, Sheppard and Van Horne;
 clerk, D. Arnott.

*The lists in this appendix, brought up to date as necessary, are published in Hansard on the first Friday of each month and in the first and last issues of each session.

ERRATA

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
59	2069	1	27	

Nursing Home	County	Beds	Licensing Date
Bethammi N.H.	Thunder Bay	5	October 1980
Strathroy N.H.	Middlesex	7	February 1981
Parkdale N.H.	Toronto	3	March 1981
Craiglee N.H.	Scarborough	39	March 1981
Kennedy Lodge N.H.	Scarborough	44	March 1981
Manitoulin N.H.	Manitoulin	1	May 1981
Garden Court N.H.	Toronto	2	May 1981
St. Jacques N.H.	Russell	10	May 1981
Riverside N.H.	Essex	10	September 1981
Tri-Town N.H.	Timiskaming	80	September 1981
The Grove, Amprior & District N.H.	Renfrew	11	October 1981
Parkview Nursing Centre	Hamilton-Wentworth	20	October 1981
Marianhill N.H.	Pembroke	3	November 1981
Frost Manor N.H.	Victoria	30	November 1981
Springdale N.H.	Peterborough	15	December 1981
Extendicare N.H.	Peterborough	15	December 1981
Timmins N.H.	Cochrane	28	December 1981
Town of Caledon	Peel	27	February 1982
Caressant Care N.H.	Oxford	10	February 1982
Maitland Manor N.H.	Huron	3	March 1982
Maitland Manor N.H.	Huron	7	November 1982
St. Andrews Centennial Manor N.H.	Simcoe	3	March 1982
Daheim N.H.	Durham	3	May 1982
Canadianna N.H.	Kent	10	May 1982
Maple Villa N.H.	Halton	3	June 1982
Fairvern N.H.	Muskoka	50	September 1982
Sara Vista N.H.	Simcoe	4	November 1982
St. Olga's N.H.	Hamilton-Wentworth	19	November 1982
Chateau Park N.H.	Essex	49	November 1982
Beacon Hill Lodge	Essex	20	November 1982
Daheim N.H.	Durham	12	February 1983
Century Manor N.H.	Northumberland	10	May 1983
Bestview Health Care Cen.	Etobicoke	94	May 1983
Maple Manor N.H.	Oxford	9	June 1983
Maple Manor N.H.	Oxford	1	January 1984
Daheim N.H.	Durham	5	June 1983
Sunnycrest N.H.	Durham	40	June 1983
Clarion N.H.	Hamilton-Wentworth	61	August 1983
Beacon Hill Lodge	Essex	21	September 1983
Bobier Conv. Home	Elgin	10	November 1983

No.	Page	Column	Line	Should read:
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Acute Treatment Beds (excluding psychiatric)

Area	Approved Beds	Referral Population	Beds/1,000 Referral Population
Province	34,012	8,813,535	3.9
Northern Ontario	3,722	784,033	4.7
Southern Ontario	30,290	8,029,502	3.8

Chronic Care Beds (excluding rehabilitation)

Area	Approved Beds	Resident Population 65 +	Beds/1,000 Resident Population 65 +
Province	11,051	886,726	12.5
Northern Ontario	918	76,036	12.1
Southern Ontario	10,133	810,690	12.5

Extended Care Beds (nursing home beds and extended care beds in homes for the aged)

Area	Approved Beds	Referral Population	Beds/1,000 Resident Population
Province	42,159	8,821,706	4.8
Northern Ontario	4,018	855,087	4.7
Southern Ontario	38,141	7,966,619	4.8

Acute Psychiatric Beds
(in public and private hospitals, excluding Ontario psychiatric hospitals)

Area	Approved Beds	Referral Population	Beds/1,000 Referral Population
Province	2,778	8,813,535	0.3
Northern Ontario	203	784,033	0.3
Southern Ontario	2,575	8,029,502	0.3

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SPEAKERS IN THIS ISSUE

Brandt, Hon. A. S., Minister of the Environment (Sarnia PC)
Breagh, M. J. (Oshawa NDP)
Bryden, M. H. (Beaches-Woodbine NDP)
Charlton, B. A. (Hamilton Mountain NDP)
Cooke, D. S. (Windsor-Riverside NDP)
Cousens, D., Deputy Chairman and Acting Speaker (York Centre PC)
Elston, M. J. (Huron-Bruce L)
Grossman, Hon. L. S., Treasurer and Minister of Economics (St. Andrew-St. Patrick PC)
Haggerty, R. (Erie L)
Johnston, R. F. (Scarborough West NDP)
Kerrio, V. G. (Niagara Falls L)
Laughren, F. (Nickel Belt NDP)
Leluk, Hon. N. G., Minister of Correctional Services (York West PC)
Mancini, R. (Essex South L)
Martel, E. W. (Sudbury East NDP)
McClellan, R. A. (Bellwoods NDP)
McKessock, R. (Grey L)
McMurtry, Hon. R. R., Attorney General (Eglinton PC)
Nixon, R. F. (Brant-Oxford-Norfolk L)
Norton, Hon. K. C., Minister of Health (Kingston and the Islands PC)
Peterson, D. R. (London Centre L)
Rae, R. K. (York South NDP)
Ramsay, Hon. R. H., Minister of Labour (Sault Ste. Marie PC)
Reid, T. P. (Rainy River L-Lab.)
Renwick, J. A. (Riverdale NDP)
Ruston, R. F. (Essex North L)
Stephenson, Hon. B. M., Minister of Education and Minister of Colleges and Universities (York Mills PC)
Sweeney, J. (Kitchener-Wilmot L)
Timbrell, Hon. D. R., Minister of Agriculture and Food (Don Mills PC)
Turner, Hon. J. M., Speaker (Peterborough PC)
Welch, Hon. R. S., Deputy Premier, Minister responsible for Women's Issues and Minister of Energy (Brock PC)
Wells, Hon. T. L., Minister of Intergovernmental Affairs (Scarborough North PC)
Wrye, W. M. (Windsor-Sandwich L)

BINDING SECT. JUL 3 1985

